BEAT TYPE 2 DIABETES
PULLOUT INSIDE

Scottish Daily Mail
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2019
70p

Shining in the rubble, golden symbol of the miracle of Notre Dame

DRAMATIC REPORTS AND PICTURES PAGES 4-11

Picture: BACKGRID

Damning report reveals threat to breast cancer patients

NHS DRUG CUTS DID RISK LIVES

BREAST cancer patients were put at 'significant' risk after a health board slashed their chemotherapy doses.

By **Rachel Watson**
Deputy Scottish Political Editor

The women were left in danger of the cancer returning after the vital drug docetaxel was administered by NHS Tayside in doses lower than elsewhere in the UK. More than 300 patients were affected, 14 of whom later died.

Now a damning report has revealed that medical chiefs did not tell patients about the differing dosage – over fears of 'patient anxiety, staff morale and departmental reputation' – and finds that the women were 'undertreated' and 'disadvantaged'.

Yesterday, the Scottish Government published a risk assessment report carried out by the Immediate Review Group (IRG) which revealed that one person per year may have suffered 'increased risk of recurrence' following breast cancer treatment in the NHS Tayside area.

But according to the report, the threat of relapse was 'extremely difficult to quantify'. It also reveals NHS Tayside withdrew a medicine which is used to 'reduce the risk of neutropenic sepsis', a deadly condition that can occur

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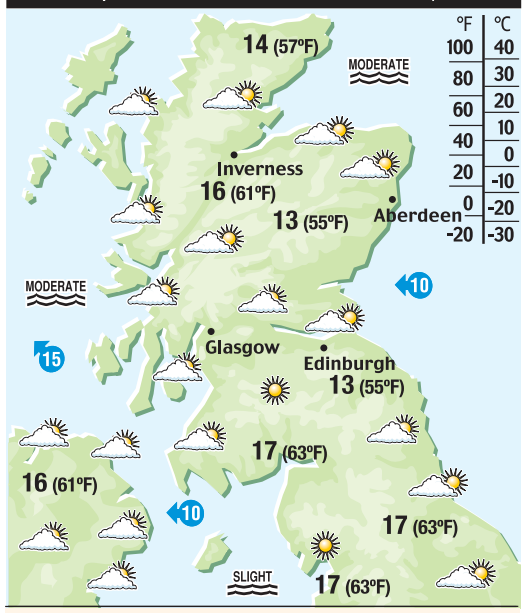
Weather

Go to: **dailymail.co.uk/weather** for UK and world 5 day forecast



Summary: Sunny intervals

SCOTLAND TODAY: Cloudy in the morning with a few light showers and mist patches. During the afternoon, it will become dry with sunny spells developing for many. Moderate southeasterly winds. Max 17c.

Today's weather

	9am	12noon	3pm	6pm	9pm
Glasgow	7c	12c	14c	14c	10c
Argyll	8c	12c	14c	13c	10c
Edinburgh	7c	10c	11c	11c	8c
Fife	7c	9c	9c	8c	7c
Dundee	8c	10c	11c	9c	7c
Borders	7c	11c	12c	10c	7c
S. West	8c	12c	14c	14c	12c
Orkney	8c	9c	10c	9c	7c
Shetland	7c	8c	8c	7c	7c
Caithness	8c	9c	9c	8c	8c
N. West	8c	13c	15c	15c	12c
C. H'lands	6c	11c	14c	14c	9c
M. Firth	7c	12c	14c	13c	9c
Aberdeen	7c	9c	10c	8c	7c

5 day forecast

	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Glasgow	18c	19c	17c	13c	11c
Edinburgh	15c	18c	18c	15c	12c
Aberdeen	12c	14c	17c	12c	12c
Inverness	16c	19c	19c	13c	11c
London	20c	23c	24c	21c	19c
Cardiff	20c	22c	22c	19c	16c
Newcastle	14c	17c	20c	16c	14c
B'ham	19c	22c	22c	19c	16c
M'chester	18c	21c	21c	19c	15c

Yesterday

24 hours to 7pm	Sun (hrs)	Rain (ins)	Temp (min)	Temp (max)
Aberdeen	0.0	0.00	6	8
Aberporth	0.6	0.43	6	12
Belfast	0.0	0.24	7	10
Birmingham	4.4	0.00	3	13
Bournemouth	0.1	0.04	7	14
Bristol	2.5	0.04	7	12
Cardiff	0.0	0.39	7	12
Durham	5.9	0.00	5	12
Edinburgh	0.0	0.00	6	12
Glasgow	0.0	0.00	6	11
Hull	7.2	0.00	3	12
Ipswich	1.2	0.00	6	13
Leeds	5.4	0.00	4	14
Lincoln	0.3	0.00	4	13
London	1.3	0.00	7	16
Manchester	0.8	0.00	6	13
Southampton	3.0	0.00	8	15
St Andrews	0.0	0.00	7	8
Stornoway	0.3	0.02	8	11

Information supplied by Meteogroup

Moon and Sun

MOON rises: 5.37pm, sets: 6.02am
SUN rises Glasgow: 6.07am, sets: 8.26pm

HIGH TIDE Greenock: 11.38am

Extremes (24 hrs to 7pm y'day) **Warmest:** Kew Gardens, Greater London, 17c (63f). **Coldest:** Santon Downham, Suffolk, 1c (34f). **Wettest:** Mumbles, Swansea, 0.59ins. **Sunniest:** Lerwick, Shetland, 9.6hrs.

Europe forecast

	today	c	f	tomorrow	c	f
Amsterdam	cloudy	16	61	sun	20	68
Brussels	cloudy	16	61	sun	20	68
Frankfurt	showers	18	64	sun	21	70
Geneva	sun	19	66	sun	20	68
Lisbon	showers	15	59	showers	18	64
Madrid	fair	27	81	showers	13	55
Paris	sun	19	66	sun	22	72
Rome	sun	18	64	sun	20	68

Around the world yesterday

Noon local time

	weather	c	f		weather	c	f		weather	c	f
Algiers	Fair	22	72	Florence	Sunny	19	66	New Delhi	Cloudy	29	84
Amsterdam	Sunny	14	57	Geneva	Fair	12	54	New York	Drizzle	13	55
Athens	Fair	15	59	Gibraltar	Sunny	21	70	Nice	Fair	16	61
Auckland	Sunny	17	63	Guernsey	Fair	12	54	Oslo	Fair	10	50
Bahrain	Sunny	34	93	Helsinki	Sunny	13	55	Palma	Sunny	20	68
Barcelona	Fair	17	63	Hong Kong	Thunder	21	70	Paris	Drizzle	11	52
Basra	Fair	34	93	Innsbruck	Fair	16	61	Perth	Fair	22	72
Beijing	Cloudy	23	73	Istanbul	Fair	13	55	Prague	Sunny	12	54
Beirut	Showers	19	66	Jersey	Fair	12	54	Rhodes	Sunny	18	64
Belfast	Drizzle	9	48	Larnaca	Showers	20	68	Riga	Sunny	14	57
Belgrade	Sunny	15	59	Las Palmas	Sunny	21	70	Rome	Sunny	17	63
Berlin	Fair	13	55	Lisbon	Sunny	18	64	Singapore	Fair	33	91
Biarritz	Sunny	15	59	London	Cloudy	15	59	Stockholm	Sunny	12	54
Brisbane	Fair	24	75	Los Angeles	Cloudy	16	61	Strasbourg	Fair	17	63
Brussels	Sunny	16	61	Luxor	Sunny	31	88	Sydney	Fair	22	72
Bucharest	Fair	14	57	Madrid	Fair	18	64	Tangier	Sunny	23	73
Budapest	Sunny	15	59	Malaga	Sunny	17	63	Tel Aviv	Drizzle	21	70
C'hagen	Sunny	9	48	Malta	Sunny	17	63	Tenerife	Sunny	21	70
Cairo	Fair	24	75	Melbourne	Fair	30	86	Tokyo	Sunny	20	68
Cape Town	Sunny	19	66	Mexico City	Sunny	24	75	Toronto	Cloudy	3	37
Casablanca	Sunny	22	72	Miami	Cloudy	28	82	Tunis	Sunny	20	68
Corfu	Sunny	18	64	Milan	Sunny	18	64	Vancouver	Fair	10	50
Dubai	Sunny	29	84	Montreal	Cloudy	5	41	Venice	Sunny	16	61
Dublin	Cloudy	9	48	Moscow	Sunny	10	50	Vienna	Sunny	14	57
Dubrovnik	Sunny	17	63	Mumbai	Fair	34	93	Warsaw	Fair	11	52
Faro	Sunny	17	63	Nairobi	Fair	27	81	Wellington	Drizzle	12	54

KUROSU

EVERY day in the Mail you can play Kurosu, the most addictive brainteaser since Sudoku. There are only two rules:
1: Fill in each space with either a nought or a cross so there are no more than two consecutive noughts or crosses in any row or column. Important note: diagonals don't count.
2: Each row and column must contain three noughts and three crosses.

Today's difficulty rating ★★☆

				O	O
O					
		X	X		
X				O	
	O				
		X			O

PLAY more Kurosu and 26 addictive puzzles like them every day on your smartphone or tablet with Mail Plus, your Mail newspaper on your screen. Get a FREE trial today at *dailymailplus.co.uk*

Solution on Coffee Break back page.

Patients kept in dark to save NHS bosses' reputation

Continued from Page One

following cancer treatment. Last night, one of those affected, mother-of-four Lee Dennis, said patients could 'still have been alive' if doctors had not taken the decision to reduce chemotherapy doses.

Mrs Dennis was given the lower dose while being treated for breast cancer in 2017 and is urging the Scottish Government to carry out a full-scale public inquiry into practices at NHS Tayside.

The 39-year-old, originally from Toronto, but now living in Perth, said: 'Perhaps if the decision had not been made, then people could still be alive. They made this decision without any consultation, it is upsetting.

'A full public inquiry is needed. I don't know how grieving families can be provided with any degree of comfort when there are questions about suboptimal treatment.'

'People could still be alive'

The IRG is a group of medical professionals from other health boards, universities and the Scottish Government.

Chief medical officer Dr Catherine Calderwood and chief pharmaceutical officer Rose Marie Parr asked it to carry out a risk assessment after it emerged that, from December 2016 to March 2019, breast cancer patients in Tayside were receiving a lower dosage of chemotherapy than anywhere else in the UK.

A separate risk assessment by publicly-funded watchdog Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) earlier this year found Tayside oncologists prescribed only 80 per cent of the standard dose of docetaxel. NHS Tayside has said medics felt lowering the dose would ease the negative side-effects of chemotherapy often felt by patients.

The report, published yesterday, concludes there was an 'increased risk' of cancer recurring in women treated, with up to 2 per cent, or one patient a year, thought to be at risk.

It adds: 'Changes made by individual oncologists may have led to the small but significant relative increased risk of recurrence in a cohort of women in NHS Tayside.'

It states that compliance with governance processes was 'deficient'.

The IRG also examined the health board's decision not to tell patients about the lower dosage because of 'potential serious downsides of such a disclosure in terms of patient anxiety, staff morale and departmental reputation'.

It has also been disclosed that Tayside withdrew the use of the drug filgrastim – 'universally applied' to cut the risk of sepsis due to low white blood cell count caused by chemotherapy when given as a secondary treatment for breast cancer.

The expert report has concluded there must be a review of medicines governance at NHS Tayside, claiming the decision made was 'outwith the best current practice, and close to being unacceptable'.

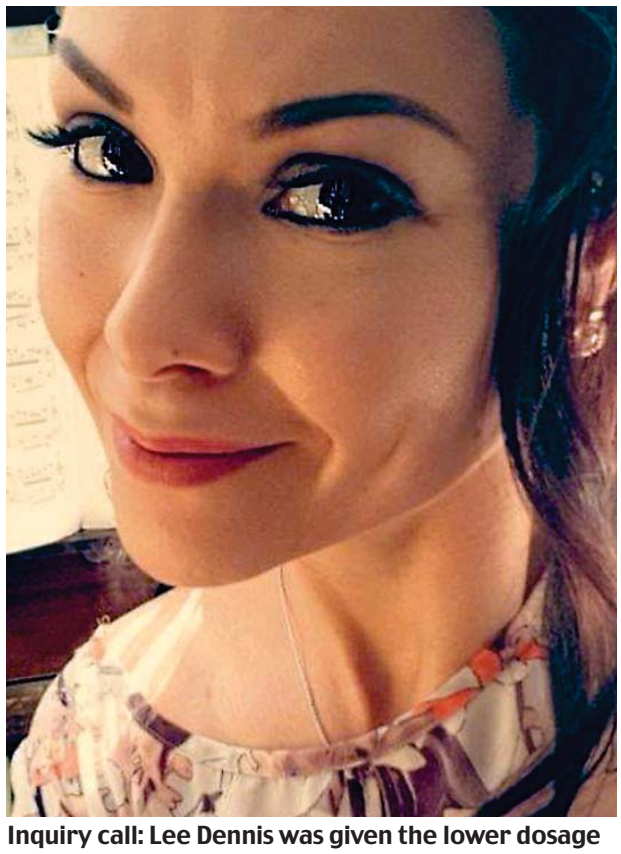
Scottish Conservative health spokesman Miles Briggs said: 'Despite there being provisions for a regional approach to cancer treatment, this wasn't followed.'

Research charity Breast Cancer Now policy and campaigns manager Ashleigh Simpson said Tayside's decision to cut the chemotherapy dose was 'unacceptable', adding: 'This report raises red flags over governance processes in NHS Tayside.'

Dr Calderwood said: 'I recognise that current and former patients, and their families, may be concerned and have questions with regards to their treatment.'

NHS Tayside's acting medical director, Professor Peter Stonebridge, said: 'We are taking this issue extremely seriously and putting in place all necessary changes to ensure we provide a high-quality breast cancer service.'

Comment – Page 18



Inquiry call: Lee Dennis was given the lower dosage

Daily Mail, April 5

Daily Mail, April 12

Clarifications & corrections

■ ARTICLES of 23 October 2018 and 29 January 2019 may have suggested that Camilla Austin was knowingly involved in a £13.7m pension scam run by her father. In fact, while Ms Austin was banned from serving as a director after holding a directorship in a company associated with the scheme, the court made no findings of wrongdoing against her. We apologise for any contrary impression given.

ipso. Regulated

■ *To report an inaccuracy, please email corrections@dailymail.co.uk. To make a formal complaint go to www.dailymail.co.uk/readerseditor. You can also write to Readers' Editor, Daily Mail, 20 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 6DB or contact IPSO directly at ipso.co.uk*

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Hey blondie, make us some sarnies! Medical student's sexism ordeal... at hands of doctors

By **Ben Spencer**
Medical Correspondent

SHE was hoping for the encouragement she needed in her quest to be a surgeon. Instead, medical student Hannah Yard says she met a barrage of sexism.

She claims she was advised to dye her blonde hair brown if she wanted to be taken seriously in the profession.

And a group of male doctors laughed as one said she 'must be here to make the sandwiches' during a placement at one hospital.

Others referred to her as 'nurse' even after she had introduced herself as a student doctor. She gave up on her dream of being a surgeon after she was told by a registrar it was 'nice to finally have something to look at across the operating table'.

Miss Yard, 24, from Southampton, completed a degree in pharmacology and then chose to continue her studies at Cardiff University. She is now in the fourth year of a postgraduate medicine course there and has been on placement in hospitals across South Wales.

She has compiled a list on social media of the 'everyday' sexism she has encountered in her training. She says she has been mistaken for a nurse, nicknamed 'Blondie' and repeatedly called 'good girl' when she answered questions correctly. Miss Yard said: 'Surprisingly never heard "good boy" being used for any of my male colleagues.'

Of the sandwich jibe, she said: 'That made me want to cry. I was only 21 and being laughed at by a big group of men.' A female colleague seeking a career in anaesthetics was told she could not juggle that with having children, she added. It is the latest sexism row to hit the medical profession.

'I was shocked and couldn't believe it'

This month the British Medical Association began an investigation into allegations of sexual harassment in its GP committee. Female doctors accused senior members of the BMA of sending unsolicited naked pictures and publicly joking about colleagues' bra sizes.

Miss Yard says she was told to 'go brunette' at an open day for a postgraduate medicine course at the University of Bristol, when she was choosing where to study. She says she was told by a member of the admissions team that she needed to make sure she 'came across the right way'.

'When I asked what he meant, he said that to be taken seriously in medicine I probably needed to dye my hair brunette,' Miss Yard said. 'I was shocked, I couldn't believe someone would say that to me. Sexism in medicine is still very much an issue, and something that shouldn't just be accepted as a joke.

'I don't know a single one of my male colleagues who has been mistaken for a nurse, called a derogatory nickname, been called "something nice to look at".' She felt she could not answer back in case it affected her career.

Adanna Anomneze-Collins, who chairs the BMA's UK medical students conference, said: 'For medical students, being exposed to such outdated and disrespectful attitudes can have a profoundly negative effect, not just on their wellbeing and mental health, but on the way they view the profession. We cannot allow such behaviour to deter talented female medics from pursuing careers as doctors.' The University of Bristol said it is 'fully committed to being a place where everyone feels safe, welcomed and respected'.

Cardiff University said: 'We are extremely concerned by the allegations and would encourage anyone who has experienced any of these issues to raise them through our formal complaints procedure. Our students should be treated with dignity, courtesy and respect.'

Target: Miss Yard says she felt like crying

The jibes that Hannah's faced

- She was told to 'go brunette' if she hoped to be taken seriously as a doctor
- Surgeons told Miss Yard she 'must be here to make the sandwiches'
- A surgical registrar said it was 'nice to finally have something to look at across the operating table'
- Fellow doctors routinely referred to her as a nurse even after she introduced herself as a student doctor
- She was praised as a 'good girl' for answering questions correctly
- A friend hoping to be an anaesthetist was told: 'How do you expect to have children? You won't be able to go part-time and stay home with the kids.'

Hannah Yard: The student in a picture she posted on social media

I'm sorry, but I can't be both judge and jury...

Daily Mail Reporter

A SENIOR judge has revealed how he was called for jury service – and had to convince officials that he couldn't serve because he was due to preside over the trial in question.

Keith Cutler, the resident judge of Winchester and Salisbury since 2009, was naturally surprised at receiving his own summons. He said that even though he replied and explained why he couldn't serve on the jury, his reason was initially rejected.

He said: 'I was selected for jury service for a trial starting April 23. I told the Jury Central Summoning Bureau that I thought I would be inappropriate. They wrote back, they picked up on the fact I was the judge but said, "Your appeal for refusal has been rejected but you could apply to the resident judge" but I told them "I am the resident judge".'

Although common sense finally prevailed, the judge said he would have been happy to have served as a juror had it been appropriate 'to see what it was like and whether I would have liked the judge'. Judge Cutler related the story of his encounter with officialdom while addressing a jury at his latest trial at Salisbury Crown Court.

A guide to jury summons issued by the Department of Justice states: 'The normal expectation is that everyone summoned will serve at the time for which they are summoned. However, there will be occasions when it is not reasonable.'

How did it escape the flames? The golden crucifix standing above a pile of charred debris

From Mailman who was first into wreckage...

Bloodied but unbowed, the Lady of Paris saved by divine intervention

HOW I SEE IT

from Robert Hardman

IN PARIS

BENEATH the light rain that greeted a sleepless Parisian dawn yesterday, there was one over-riding emotion: That some sort of miracle had occurred in the early hours as it transpired one of the world's greatest medieval buildings had survived wholesale destruction.

The near-cataclysmic fire which had raged through the Cathedral of Notre Dame for eight hours during the night had finally been brought under control and smothered by first light.

Notre Dame has, without doubt, been horribly damaged. France, along with much of the world, has been deeply shocked at the near-demise of 'Our Lady of Paris'. Yesterday evening, fresh images of the wreckage were released showing the nave piled high with charred and twisted timbers.

Yet it could have been so very much worse. The 850-year-old towers which stand guard over the entrance and the immortal bells hanging within are in one piece. So, too, is some of the stained glass. 'Our Lady' lives on, bloodied but unbowed.

At the same time, the fire had produced another miracle of sorts. This avowedly secular country suddenly seemed to have rediscovered its sense of the spiritual yesterday, if only for a few hours.'I have never known so many people talking openly about God, about religion and saying prayers in public,' said caterer Marie-Astrid d'Arras. 'So many people have become Catholic once again.'

Underpinning all this talk of divine intervention was a single image which first appeared in the Daily Mail yesterday.

I was one of the first people inside the smouldering cathedral as the worst of the fire subsided. I accompanied the French prime minister, Edouard Philippe, and a handful of aides on a preliminary inspection of the charred shell.

We found flames still flickering in some of the upper reaches and a lake at our feet. Then, through the foul-smelling miasma of smoke and hose water which filled this roofless void, we suddenly spotted an image that has come to define this near-disaster: The golden cross above the altar. How on earth had it managed to avoid the fate of everything else in the seat of the blaze, let alone remain upright?

Even avowed atheists took to social media yesterday to profess how moved they had been by this poignant symbol of defiance. Several Anglophile Parisians told me it reminded them of that famous wartime image of St Paul's Cathedral standing tall during the Blitz.

For the authorities, there were more earthly considerations, notably finding out how the hell this had all happened in the first place. France might be praying a little louder than usual. But it is also pretty angry, too.

President Emmanuel Macron knows he needs to show a firm grip on every aspect of this episode and his interior minister Christophe Castaner vowed to identify the culprits yesterday. Attention was firmly focused on the contractors responsible for repair work on the roof in the area where the fire broke out. The fact that it started just moments after the end of the working day could provide a link.

Mr Macron cleared yesterday's Cabinet meetings of all other business to focus exclusively on Notre Dame. Such is the mystical hold this 12th Century Gothic masterpiece has on the national psyche.

A key issue will be the cost. Under French law, the ownership of the cathedral rests with the State but the French taxpayer received a handsome head start yesterday when two of the country's richest families pledged 300million euros before breakfast. By last night, the fighting fund had hit an astonishing 600million euros.

As stories began to emerge of the gallantry of the firefighters – and of a particularly heroic priest seen running into the inferno to retrieve some of Notre Dame's treasures – messages arrived from world leaders, including one from the Queen. 'Prince Philip and I have been deeply saddened to see the images of the fire which has engulfed Notre Dame Cathedral,' she told President Macron. 'My thoughts and prayers are with those who worship at the cathedral and all of France at this difficult time.'

Tomorrow, she will attend her beloved Royal Maundy service at St George's Windsor, the traditional prelude to Easter Sunday.

There will be no Easter at Notre Dame, for the first time in nearly nine centuries. There was also a message yesterday from the Prince of Wales. 'I realise only too well what a truly special significance the cathedral holds at the heart of your nation,' he told Mr Macron. 'But also for us outside France it represents one of the greatest architectural achievements of Western civilisation. It is a treasure for all mankind.'

By way of consolation, he alluded to the Royal Family's own experience of the 1992 fire which ravaged much of Windsor Castle. 'Our hearts go out to you and the people of France more than you can ever know, especially in view of our experience with the devastating fire at Windsor Castle 27 years ago,' the Prince went on.

It was the Prince, together with the Duke of Edinburgh, who led the five-year, £40million rebuilding programme. It more than restored Windsor to its former glory.

Mr Macron would be well advised to pick up the phone to the Queen or her eldest son for a few useful tips on how best to resurrect a medieval treasure.

Other world leaders expressing their solidarity yesterday included Pope Francis, who announced he was placing the Vatican's heritage

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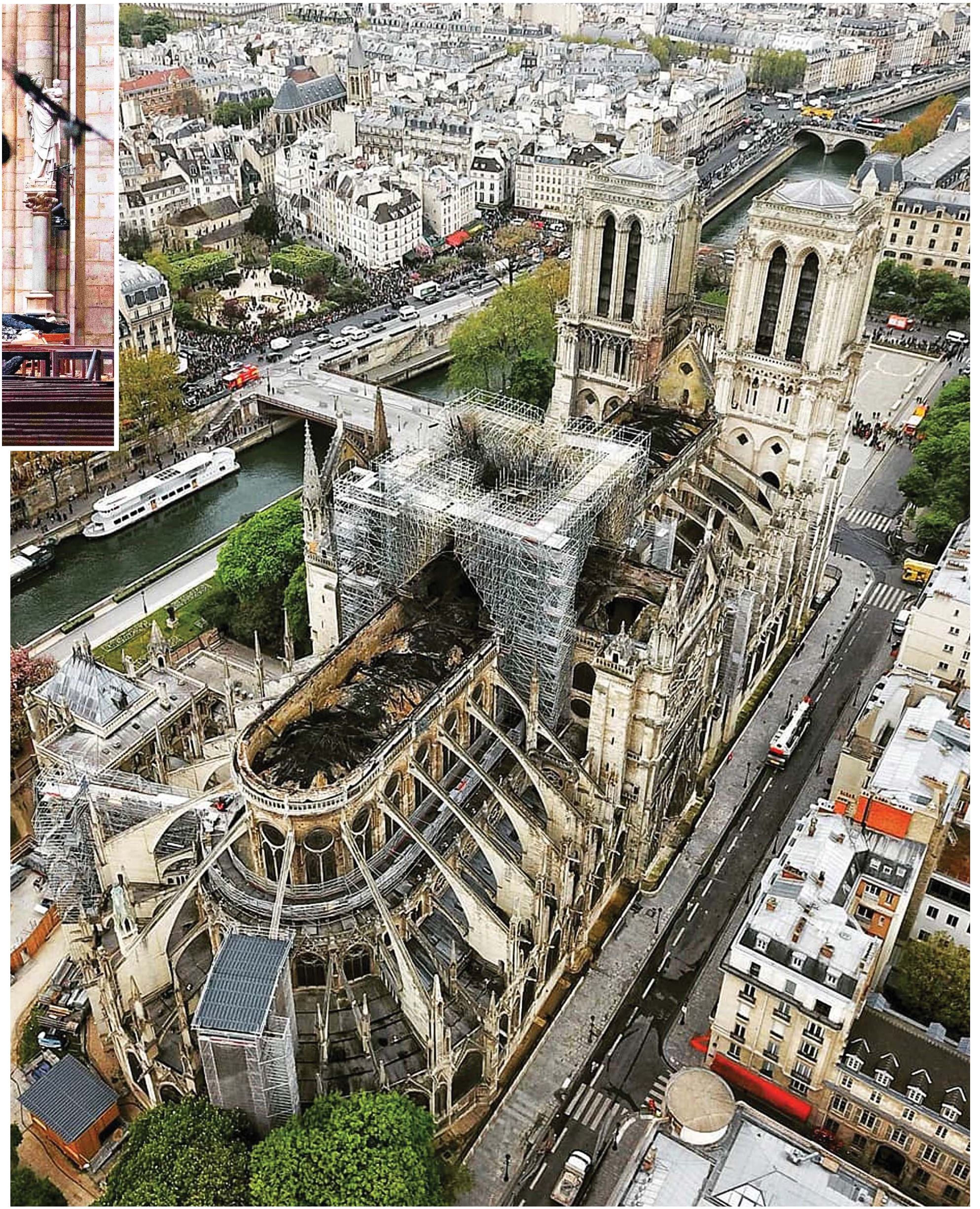


Near disaster: An aerial view shows the vast extent of the damage to the Gothic cathedral's roof, where the fire took hold and raged throughout Monday night

NOTRE DAME CATASTROPHE

As building chief who said he was proud of his work is investigated...

WERE HERO FIREMEN ONLY CALLED TO FIGHT BLAZE 23 MINS AFTER FIRST ALARM?

From **Arthur Martin** in Paris and **David Churchill** in Metz

THE devastating blaze at Notre Dame was missed by officials for 23 minutes after a fire alarm, it emerged last night.

Although the alarm was triggered at 6.20pm on Monday, cathedral attendants failed to spot the fire in the roof until another alarm went off at 6.43pm.

It is possible they missed the outbreak because the attic area was hemmed in by layers of scaffolding.

But the critical delay will raise questions over whether more of the historic structure could have been saved.

Paris public prosecutor Rémy Heitz said: 'There was an initial alarm at 6.20pm, followed by a procedure to verify this but no fire was found. Then, there was a second alarm at 6.43pm and at that point a fire was detected in the structure.'

He added: 'The investigation is going to be long and complex.'

France's deputy interior minister Laurent Nuñez said the Gothic marvel came within '15 to 30 minutes' of total destruction. Last night dozens of workers were being questioned by police over what they were doing before the fire broke out.

Some were employees of Le Bras Freres – a company known as the 'Cathedral Restorers' – which had won a £5 million contract to renovate the spire at the Paris heritage site. Prosecutors will investigate to find out if any of the workmen should be brought to court for cutting corners.

Julien Le Bras, the 32-year-old boss of the specialist construction company, said 12 employees were working on the roof of the cathedral that day. But he insisted all of his staff had left Notre Dame by the time the blaze broke out.

Mr Le Bras, who boasted about his firm's ability to protect historic sites when his company won the contract to repair the 300ft spire in 2017, expressed his 'extreme sadness' over the fire.

During a visit to the cathedral, he said: 'All of our colleagues, workmen and others will assist the enquiry without reserve. Everybody will try and shine a light on the origin of this drama. Not a single of my employees was on site at the time of the fire. The methods of the enquiry must be respected.

Defensive: Building contractor Julien Le Bras. Right and top: Firemen battle the blaze

'Ability and competence'

It's the job of the investigators to work out what happened.

'At the moment we're working with architects and civil servants to make sure the building is secure. We'll use our expertise to see if risks exist, and to plan future work.' Le Bras Freres, which is based near the city of Metz in north-east France, employs 180 staff and has carried out restoration work on at least 12 other sites, including the Parthenon in Athens.

The firm also owns Europe Echafaudage, the company responsible for the scaffolding at Notre Dame. In 2017, the two companies made almost £22 million.

Le Bras Freres, which specialises in carpentry and roofing, beat off bids from a number of far bigger companies to secure contracts for work at the cathedral.

Mr Le Bras suggested there were other companies involved in the restoration work, but would not divulge who they were.

The relatively young construction boss had previously heralded his firm's 'technical ability and competence' in restoring historic buildings.

In a film posted online, Mr Le Bras said: 'We are proud of our work on historic buildings. We have the technical ability and the competence for this work. Our first thought is to protect the values of historical buildings – it's in our DNA.'

Implying that his company's restoration work lasts for generations, he added: 'We won't work with a ten-year guarantee – we aim for 150 years.' Commenting on Notre Dame's famous spire, which collapsed in the blaze, he said: 'The spire is 105m tall and there is no question that we will put any pressure on it with the scaffolding.'

When the Mail visited the company's headquarters in Jarny, staff refused to comment.

FROM PAGE 4

experts at France's disposal. After all, one of his predecessors, Pope Alexander III, was here to see the foundation stone laid in 1163.

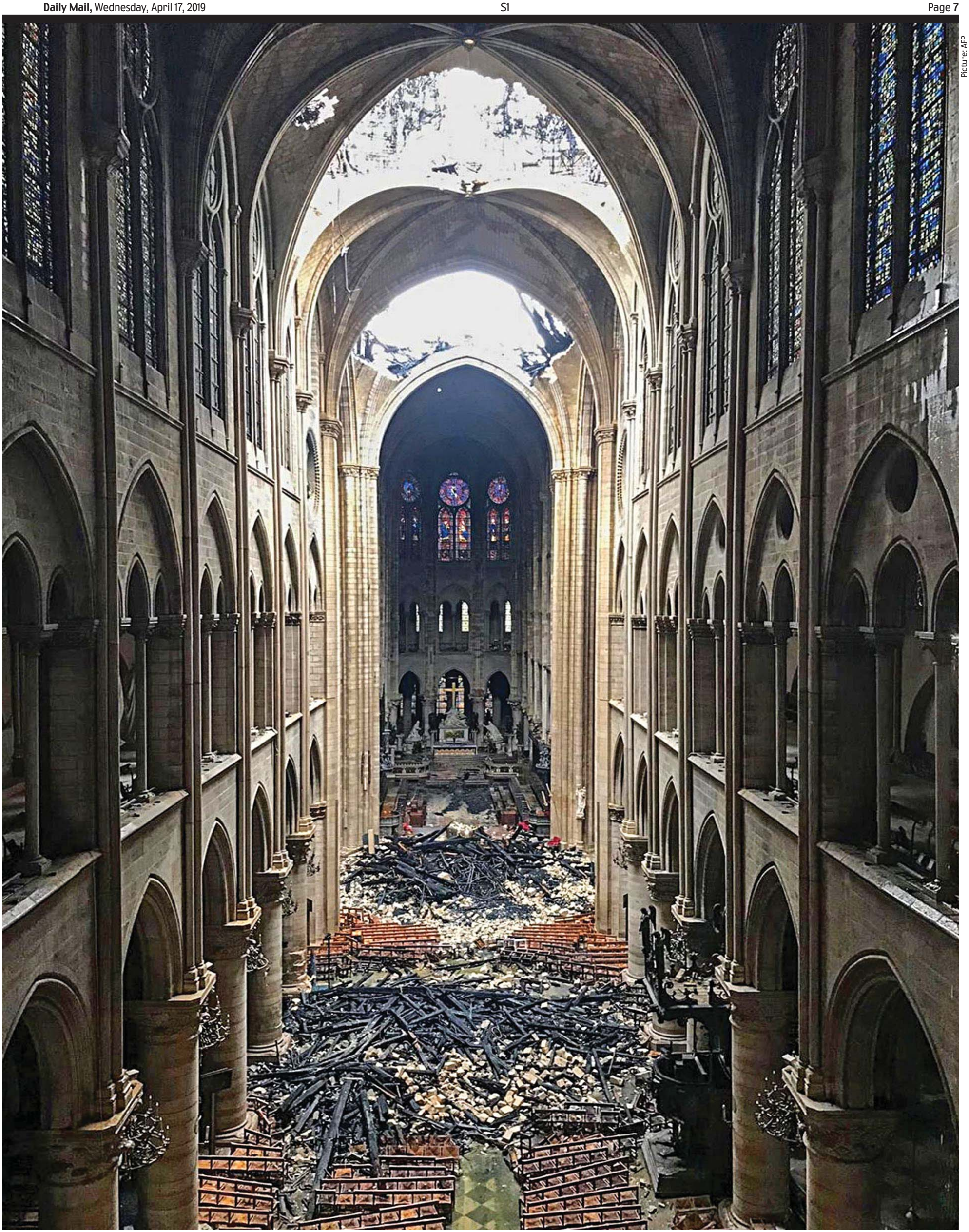
The outpouring of international goodwill only added to the emotions I encountered in Paris yesterday. I found young men playing mournful recitals on the cello. Here and there, nuns broke into song or prayer. Gawping crowds encircling the cathedral's island site on either side of the Seine filled miles of pavement and brought traffic to an escargot-style crawl.

In front of Notre Dame itself, a succession of sombre politicians talked of a need for national unity. After months of civil disobedience by the anti-Macron 'gilets jaunes' movement, there is a sense that the appetite for organised dissent has waned in the last 24 hours.

'There is a spirit which lives inside and above this building, one you don't find in, say, the Eiffel Tower,' said Ambrose Laurent, secretary of France's Conference of Bishops Then the bishops issued a joint statement saying every cathedral in France would ring its bells today at the precise time when Monday's fire broke out.

Sitting with his drawing pad next to the Seine, I found retired steel executive Robert Gest, 72, sketching the cathedral. He said he wants to leave it to his grandchildren as a reminder of what happened. 'There has been so much bashing of the church and religion in this country that perhaps this experience will make people think about it a little more,' he said. 'After all, the great cross is still there.'

Comment – Page 18



Picture: AFP

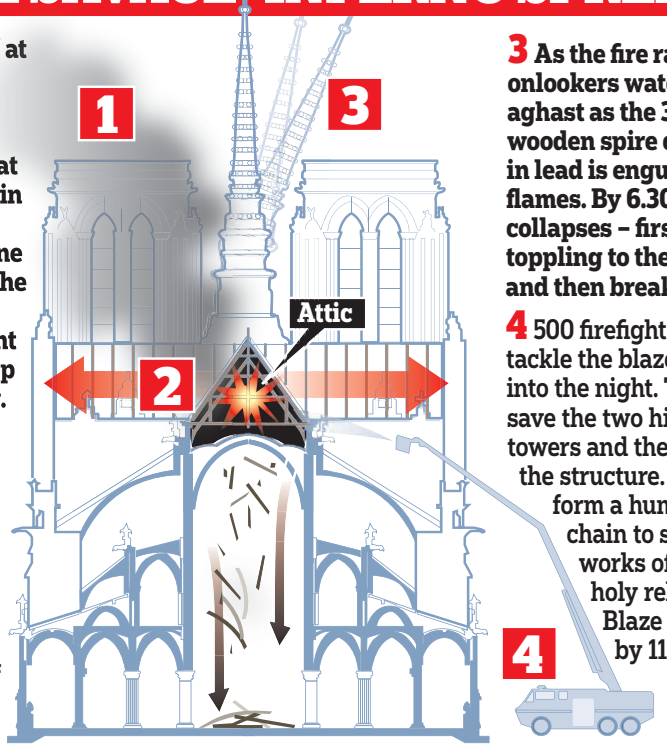
Ashes: The interior of the cathedral after Monday's inferno. Firemen managed to save the building's two towers, but its famous 300ft spire was destroyed

THE TREASURES THAT SURVIVED

HOW THE SAVAGE INFERNO SPREAD

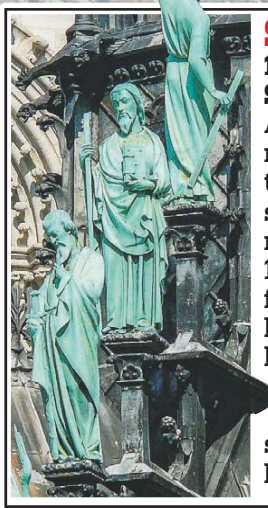
1 Fire alarm goes off at 5.20pm (GMT) but smoke is first seen billowing out of the roof below the spire at 5.30pm. Fire started in the cathedral's attic which lies above stone arches visible from the floor. The attic is criss-crossed by giant timber trusses to help support the building.

2 With accumulated dust and debris making the attic even more flammable, the blaze quickly spreads across the 1,300 beams. By 11pm two-thirds of the roof has been destroyed.



3 As the fire rages, onlookers watch aghast as the 300ft wooden spire covered in lead is engulfed in flames. By 6.30pm it collapses – first toppling to the side and then breaking off.

4 500 firefighters tackle the blaze late into the night. They save the two historic towers and the bulk of the structure. They form a human chain to save works of art and holy relics. Blaze put out by 11pm.



SAVED: 16 COPPER STATUES
As part of the renovation, 16 ten foot copper statues – representing the 12 apostles and four evangelists – had fortunately been removed by crane from the now-destroyed spire just days before the blaze.

AREA OF ROOF AND SPIRE DESTROYED BY THE FIRE

Spire 300ft high

SAVED: ROSE WINDOWS
The three stained glass rose windows that adorn the north, south, and west facades are among the most famous features of the 850-year-old gothic masterpiece. All three 13th century windows have survived.

Illustration by JOHN LAWSON

SAVED: TUNIC OF ST LOUIS
The 13th century linen tunic that King Louis IX is believed to have worn as he brought the Crown of Thorns to Paris was also saved, according to Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo. In 1297, Louis became the only French monarch to be canonised.

ATTIC

APSE

HIGH ALTAR

CHOIR

CHANCEL

DAMAGED: THE HIGH ALTAR
Miraculously, the only piece of architecture damaged inside the sacred building was the high altar. It was hit as the spire crashed down in the flames, according to the cathedral's heritage director Laurent Prades.

APPARENTLY SAVED:
DESCENT FROM THE CROSS, right,
Initial photos suggest the 1723 statue by Nicolas Coustou — showing Jesus being taken down from his Crucifixion — is still standing but surrounded by smoke and debris.

NOTRE DAME'S DEVASTATION

SAVED: THE BELLS Immortalised in Victor Hugo's Hunchback of Notre Dame, the cathedral's bells have chimed out at key moments in France's history.

FATE UNKNOWN: TRUE CROSS AND HOLY NAIL Notre Dame was also home to a fragment of wood, above left, said to come from the wood of the cross Jesus was crucified on, along with one of the nails, above right. Saved during the French Revolution and later given to the cathedral, it was unclear yesterday whether they had been rescued.

SAVED: CROWN OF THORNS Firefighters rescued the irreplaceable relic, said to have been worn by Christ at the Crucifixion, which was stored in the treasury. Contained in an elaborate gold case, the wreath – eight inches in diameter - was brought to Paris by King Louis IX in 1238. The Crown of Thorns is now safe at Paris town hall.

DAMAGED: GREAT ORGAN With five keyboards and nearly 8,000 pipes, the cathedral's 15th century master organ is one of the largest in the world. French culture minister Franck Riester said the organ – which was fully restored in 2013 – seemed 'to be quite badly damaged'. It was 'not burned' but was partly covered in rubble, dust, and water, which will cause further damage as it dries out.

DAMAGED: PAINTINGS If they have survived, the cathedral's greatest paintings are likely to have suffered smoke damage, according to Mr Riester. This includes The Mays, a series of 76 religious works, and Visitation, right, the 1716 piece by Jean-Baptiste Jouvenet's hung in the Chapel of Saint-Guillaume. The fire did not reach the paintings but they were damaged by both smoke and water. On Friday, they are to be transported to the nearby Louvre museum for restoration.

NOTRE DAME CATASTROPHE

He showed no fear ... hero priest of the Bataclan saved Crown of Thorns

From **Emine Sinmaz** in Paris

A PRIEST who comforted the injured victims of the Bataclan terror attack has emerged as the hero of the Notre Dame inferno.

Jean-Marc Fournier, chaplain of the Paris Fire Brigade, risked his life to save the Crown of Thorns and the Blessed Sacrament from the cathedral on Monday night.

It was feared that the religious relics would be destroyed as flames engulfed the medieval building. But Father Fournier insisted on entering the cathedral with firefighters and 'showed no fear at all'.

The 53-year-old is believed to have been part of a 'human chain' who retrieved the centuries-old priceless artworks and artefacts. An emergency services source, who did not want to be named, said: 'Father Fournier is an absolute hero.

'He showed no fear at all as he made straight for the relics inside the cathedral, and made sure they were saved. He deals with life and death every day, and shows no fear.'

The relics included the Crown of Thorns which is said to have been placed on the head of Jesus before he was crucified.

Yesterday Paris's 15th district mayor Philippe Goujon confirmed to reporters outside the landmark that the chaplain insisted on being allowed in the cathedral and played a role in the rescue. Etienne Loraillere, an editor for France's KTO Catholic television network, added that Father Fournier 'went with the firefighters into Notre Dame Cathedral to save the Crown of Thorns and the Blessed Sacrament'.

A photograph of Father Fournier standing outside the cathedral and surrounded by first responders was posted on social media on Monday night.

The Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo tweeted her thanks to the rescuers for forming 'a formidable human chain' to save the irreplaceable objects. The Crown of Thorns, the tunic of Saint Louis and several other major works are now in a safe place,' she posted.

Father Fournier, who survived an ambush while serving with French forces in Afghanistan, was also noted for his bravery after Islamic State terrorists murdered 89 people using guns and explosives at the Bataclan theatre in November 2015.

He rushed to the venue and prayed over the dead, and comforted those who were injured or had lost loved ones. 'I gave collective absolution, as the Catholic Church authorises me,' he said at the time.

In an interview he gave to Christian Family magazine after that attack, Father Fournier told how he was based in Germany and in France's western Sarthe region before joining the Paris Fire Brigade. He also served in the Diocese of the French Armed Forces and was based for a time in Afghanistan where he was involved in an ambush in which ten soldiers were killed. Father Fournier said: 'On my first trip to Afghanistan, I was seized by fear – everything I saw could potentially be dangerous, as we had learned during training courses.' He has previously posted online that his hobbies include bodybuilding, horse-riding and reading.

Brave: Jean-Marc Fournier

Icon will rise from ashes in 5 years, vows Macron

EMMANUEL Macron last night vowed to rebuild Notre Dame within five years – and insisted the disaster was an opportunity to make the cathedral 'more beautiful'.

The French President's aim to complete the restoration within such a short timeframe was at odds with some experts' estimates that the project would take decades.

'We will rebuild Notre Dame even more beautifully and I want it to be completed in five years. We can do it,' Mr Macron said. The president has yet to pledge any funds towards the bill, which is likely to be in excess of £1billion.

The French government had previously been reluctant to invest money into refurbishing Notre Dame, despite repeated warnings about its decrepit condition, stumping up less than £2million a year for France's most visited tourist site. Donald Tusk, president of the European Council, yesterday called on EU member countries to donate funds.

Why the flames of Paris wrenched our hearts

AN WILSON – SEE PAGE 18

From **Arthur Martin** in Paris

A BRITISH choir performed the last concert at Notre Dame before the devastating fire. Twelve members of I Dodici sang choral works in front of the cathedral's altar on Monday morning.

A video filmed by an unknown member of the audience shows the sunshine gleaming through the magnificent stained-glass. She later sent the footage to the London-based group and told them of her 'immense pleasure' at attending the poignant concert with her husband.

She wrote: 'In light of horrible events now unfolding, we thought you should have this video from what now sadly might be the last concert in the cathedral.'

Conductor of the London-based college choir Gabriel Chernick said it was a 'real privilege' to sing in a 'space which has such a rich history'. Asked how he felt when he heard about the fire, he added: 'It was devastating, we all became quite emotionally involved having just performed there.'

Hours before blaze, British choir fills cathedral with song

From the heart: I Dodici were the last singers to perform in historic landmark

MPs: Next fire disaster could be at Parliament

By **Daniel Martin**
Policy Editor

MPS have demanded action to safeguard the Houses of Parliament in the wake of the Notre Dame disaster – as it emerged 60 fires have broken out there over the past decade.

Andrea Leadsom, Leader of the House of Commons, said last year that potentially serious fires broke out in Parliament at a rate of once every two months. Any one of these could have escalated to destroy the 160-year-old building.

Labour MP Chris Bryant said: 'Parts of the Palace are as old as Notre Dame and we must make sure that every fire precaution is taken as the major work goes ahead.' He added: 'God knows we've had enough warnings.'

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said: 'The state of the building is very poor in Westminster and a fire risk is obviously huge with a building that has so much wood within it.'

Cabinet Office minister David Lidington said: 'With each year that passes, the risk of a catastrophic fire grows.'

The original Houses of Parliament burned down in 1834, and experts warn that its magnificent replacement – erected in the 1850s – could suffer the same fate. One of the fires at Westminster was caused by an old electrical cable and was only detected by chance. A source warned: 'Had it occurred at night or at the weekend it is highly likely that it would have caused major damage.'

'God knows we've had enough warnings'

In another case, a malfunctioning light on an obscure part of the roof caused an electrical fire that could have spread rapidly, had it not been detected at once. Last night a Parliamentary spokesman called fire safety a 'key priority' – but work to make the building safer has been repeatedly delayed over cost fears.

The work is now not expected to take place until the mid-2020s.

The rapid speed at which the fire took hold in Paris has also renewed fears for many of our historic cathedrals and stately homes.

York Minister was partially destroyed by fire in 1984, and Hampton Court was damaged two years later. Much of the Queen's favourite residence of Windsor Castle was also ravaged by fire in 1992.

Three years ago, experts warned that historic buildings across England are at risk of burning down because their owners are blocking attempts to install 'unsightly' fire prevention methods.

Hunchback climbs to top of Amazon charts

VICTOR Hugo's The Hunchback of Notre Dame has shot to the top of an Amazon bestseller list after the blaze.

The original French language version of the 1829 gothic novel became the fastest selling book in France. It was also a leading bestseller worldwide in English in two sub-categories of historical fiction.

The Disney animated movie version of the story also rocketed into the top 10 of family films.

Many critics have argued that the cathedral – the 'majestic and sublime edifice' which Hugo adored – is the central character in the novel.

£650m

French tycoons behind Gucci and Dior pledge cash to restore cathedral

PLEDGED £173M

PLEDGED £86.5M

Billionaires: Francois-Henri Pinault and Salma Hayek, above. Top, Antoine Arnault and Natalia Vodianova at scene yesterday

By **David Wilkes**

THE amount pledged to help rebuild Notre Dame soared to more than £650million last night – with much of it from three super-rich French dynasties.

The extraordinary response followed Emmanuel Macron's vow to launch an international fundraising scheme to restore the cathedral.

As experts warned the painstaking work could take decades to complete, first came a pledge of £86.5million from billionaire Francois-Henri Pinault, who is married to Hollywood star Salma Hayek.

That was quickly topped by £173million from Europe's richest man Bernard Arnault, 70, and his luxury goods company LVMH.

Then cosmetics giant L'Oreal and its founding Bettencourt family promised a further £173million.

French oil firm Total said it would contribute £86.5million.

Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo said the city would provide £43million, while the government of the greater Paris region pledged £8.65million. As thousands poured in from individual donations to other fundraising platforms, blue-chip firms including Vinci, Michelin and BNP Paribas also considering how they can help.

Mr Pinault, 56, is the chairman of the Kering group that owns the Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent and Alexander McQueen fashion brands. He is estimated to be worth £19.5billion.

He told of his shock at seeing the fire and said: 'We need to rebuild collectively this part of our history, of our culture, so it's an urgent, urgent need to move forward, so I decided to unlock a very important amount of money to do that.'

Mr Pinault married Miss Hayek, 52, in Paris on Valentine's Day 2009 in Paris. They have a daughter Valentina, 11.

He owns properties around the world and they moved to London five years ago.

Kering was founded as a wood and building materials company in 1963 by Mr Pinault's father, Francois Pinault, 82. The family also owns auction house Christie's, a 3,000-piece art collection and vineyards.

Mr Arnault, 70, runs LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE, the world's largest maker of luxury goods. The family's fortune is estimated at £70billion and its business empire includes Christian Dior, Dom Perignon, TAG Heuer and Sephora cosmetics.

The LVMH group said in a statement that 'in solidarity with this national tragedy' it was also putting 'at the disposal of the state and the concerned authorities all its teams, creative, architectural, financial'.

'It is a national tragedy'

Mr Arnault is said to have wooed his second wife Helene Mercier, a Canadian pianist, by playing Chopin. They live with their three sons live in a 19th century house on Paris's Left Bank.

Known as one of the world's 'ultimate taste-makers', Mr Arnault has described himself as 'an ambassador of French heritage and culture'. His son Antoine, 41, visited the scene yesterday with his Russian supermodel partner Natalia Vodianova, 37.

L'Oreal boss Francoise Bettencourt Meyers, 65, is the world's richest woman, with a £37.8billion fortune. She is the president of her family's philanthropic foundation, which encourages French progress in the science and arts.

Mrs Meyers is the granddaughter of L'Oreal's founder and the daughter of Liliane Bettencourt, who until her death aged 94 in 2017 was the world's richest woman. As offers of help with Notre Dame's reconstruction poured in from around the globe Peter Fuessenich, the chief architect of Cologne's Gothic cathedral, said: 'It will certainly take years, perhaps even decades, until the last damage caused by this terrible fire will be completely repaired.'

Cologne cathedral was heavily damaged during the Second World War. Work to repair it continues.

The Vatican said it can offer technical know-how, while Britain's ambassador to France, Ed Llewellyn, said this country stands ready to help.

Sarah Brown, the director of the York Glaziers Trust, which cares for the windows at York Minster – which was devastated by fire in 1984 – said her team had already been in contact with colleagues in France to offer assistance.

The rebuilding task could be made easier by a digital map of Notre Dame created using laser technology three years ago.

LANDING OF LEVIATHAN

Superjumbo touches down

Daily Mail Reporter

STANDING majestically on the runway, the colossal Airbus dwarfed the spectators who had gathered to see it land in Glasgow yesterday.

The 238ft-long jet, the world's largest commercial passenger aircraft, is due to begin regular services between the city and Dubai for Emirates.

It comes after Glasgow Airport spent more than £8million upgrading facilities so it could accommodate the A380, including the introduction of Scotland's first triple airbridge.

It is not the first time the airport has welcomed the massive aircraft – one visited the city in 2014 to mark ten years of flights from Glasgow by the airline.

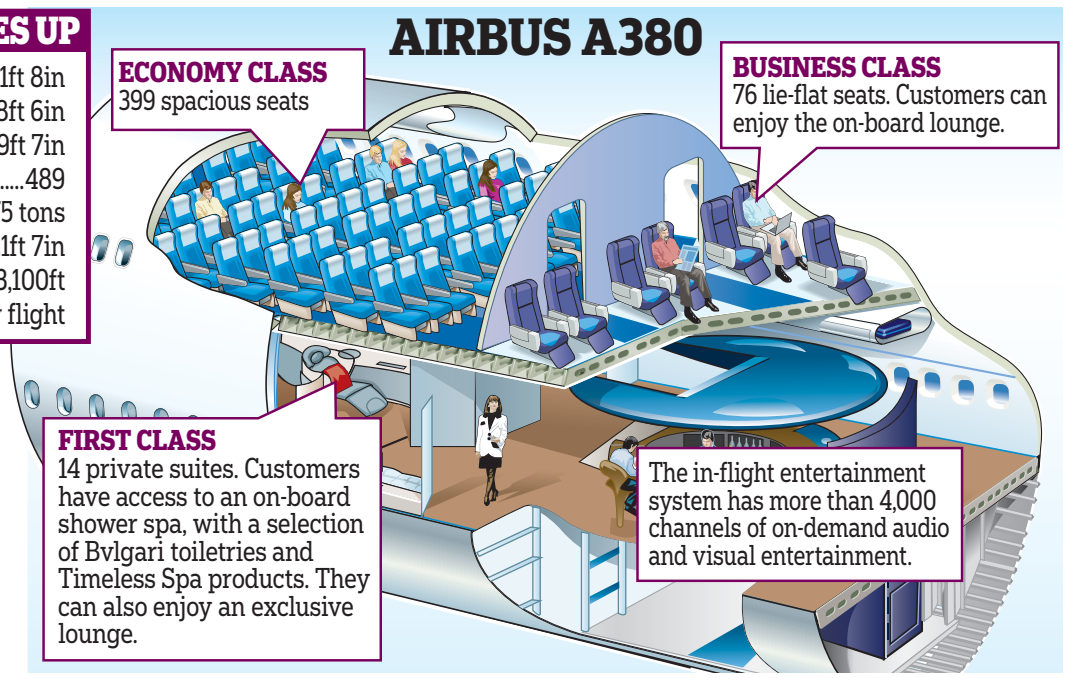
Known as the superjumbo, the double-decker jet was welcomed by scores of onlookers, while a piper played on the tarmac. With a wing span of nearly 270ft, the A380 can carry almost 500 passengers.

Each of the huge planes costs more than £300million and weighs 575 tons – the equivalent of 45 double-decker buses.

Airport managing director Mark Johnston described the decision by Emirates to introduce the aircraft as a 'huge milestone' for Glasgow.

HOW GIANT MEASURES UP

WINGSPAN	261ft 8in
LENGTH	238ft 6in
HEIGHT	79ft 7in
CAPACITY	489
WEIGHT	575 tons
CABIN WIDTH	21ft 7in
CRUISING ALTITUDE	43,100ft
CABIN CREW	24 on every flight



Scottish jobless rate falls to a record low despite Brexit fears

By **John Paul Breslin**

THE number of people out of work in Scotland has fallen to a record low, despite the continuing Brexit turmoil.

The unemployment rate in Scotland fell to 3.3 per cent in the three months to February, while employment was up by 0.3 per cent.

Some 2,688,000 people were said to be in work between December last year and February 2019, up from 2,671,000 in the previous period. This represents an employment rate of 75.6 per cent.

During the same period, a total of 93,000 working-age people were unemployed, down from 101,000 between September and November last year.

Across the UK, the unemployment rate was 3.9 per cent – down by 0.1 per cent on the previous quarter and lower than at any time since the end of 1975.

Economy Secretary Derek Mackay said: 'While Scotland's economy and job market continues to grow, the UK Government's Brexit plans, in whatever form, will cost jobs, make people poorer and damage our society.'

He added: 'The ongoing talks over the EU exit must include the devolved administrations, and for any deal agreed by the UK Parliament to be put to a second referendum.

'However, as a responsible government we will also continue our work to prepare for all outcomes as best we can.'

Scottish Secretary David Mundell said: 'It is great news that unemployment in Scotland is at a record low. Coupled with the rise in employment, there is a lot to be positive about.'

Mr Mundell said the UK Government's investment in growth deals was now more than £1.35billion, 'showing our huge commitment to growing Scotland's economy'.

The Scottish figures come as UK-wide statistics show Britain has seen a jobs boom amid the Brexit chaos, with a record 32.7million people in work. Around 76.1 per cent of the adult population was working in the three months to February.

This growth has been driven by women, who filled 80 per cent of the jobs added in the period.

Meanwhile, wages rose at their fastest pace for ten years in a sign the economy remains robust.

'There is a lot to be positive about'

The UK jobless rate stood at 3.9 per cent, according to the Office for National Statistics, its lowest level since 1975, when Harold Wilson was Prime Minister. This contrasts with a rate of 7.8 per cent in the eurozone.

Sarah Coles, of financial services company Hargreaves Lansdown, said: 'The unemployment rate is now around half of what it was when the economy was struggling to stay above water in the wake of the financial crisis.'

UK employment minister Alok Sharma said the UK jobs market data proved 'the underlying resilience of the British economy'.

The total number of people in full-time employment rose by 473,000 in the UK from a year earlier, while the number of part-timers dropped by 15,000.

A 3.5 per cent rise in wages was the joint-best for a decade. The average worker is now paid £27,508, and growth is outstripping inflation of 1.9 per cent – meaning families' pay packets are stretching further each month.

Business groups were cheered by the performance but said it was important to strike a Brexit deal so that jobs growth can continue.

Matthew Percival, of the Confederation of British Industry, said: 'Although securing a Brexit extension means that we have averted an economic crisis, politicians must now come together and avoid a No Deal scenario or risk impacting the UK's stellar labour market.'

Er, shouldn't you be in rehearsals, Scary?

From the top: Mel C and Geri rehearsing in the studio

By **Jennifer Ruby**
Senior Showbusiness Correspondent

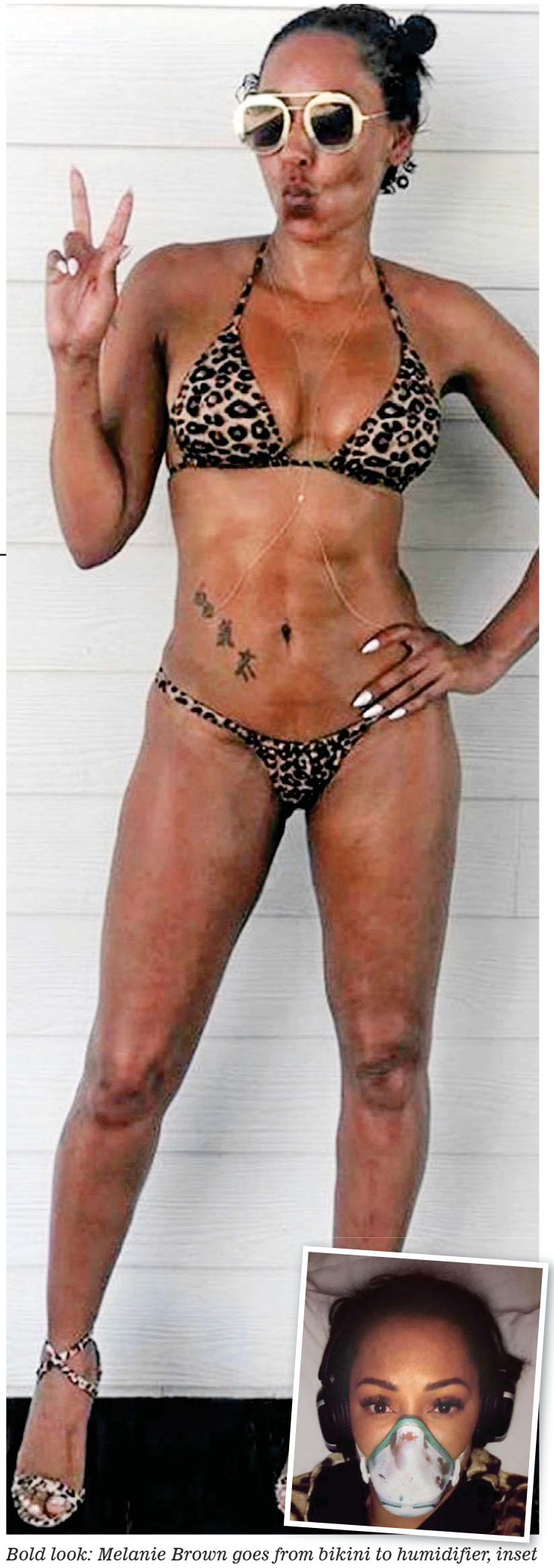
IT'S been more than a decade since they last performed together.

But as work gets under way for their reunion tour, one Spice Girl seems in no rush to practise her moves.

Mel B was sunning herself by the pool in Los Angeles yesterday as Geri Horner, 46, Mel C, 45, and Emma Bunton, 43, arrived at a London studio for the second day of rehearsals for the tour, which starts next month. 'Scary Spice' Mel B – full name Melanie Brown, 43 – is 'completing work commitments' at home in LA, her spokesman said.

But she found time to pose in a leopard print bikini before sharing a second picture on Instagram of her wearing a humidifier mask, which she said helps prepare the voice for rehearsals.

Tensions are already running high following Miss Brown's 'hurtful' claims she and Mrs Horner had a lesbian affair in the 1990s. But despite the no-show, Miss Bunton yesterday insisted there is no bad blood between the band, telling This Morning Miss Brown had been keeping in touch through FaceTime.



Bold look: Melanie Brown goes from bikini to humidifier, inset

Millions could get £300 payout over Mastercard rip-off

By **Sean Poulter**
Consumer Affairs Editor

MILLIONS of Britons may be entitled to a £300 repayment as Mastercard faces legal action over rip-off fees – which could cost it £14billion.

A claim led by former chief financial services ombudsman, Walter Merricks, has been allowed to go ahead after the Court of Appeal yesterday overturned a previous decision to block it.

The claim says around 46million UK consumers paid higher prices on everything – from a pair of shoes to their weekly shop – due to charges imposed on retailers by Mastercard for processing credit and debit card payments over a 16-year period.

Any UK residents over the age of 16 who made purchases from businesses that accepted Mastercard between May 1992 and June 2008 would be automatically included in the claim, unless they opt out.

The legal action, which has been supported by consumer group Which?, was initially filed at the Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) in London in 2016, but was blocked in January last year. That ruling was challenged by Mr Merricks and yesterday the Court of Appeal threw out the tribunal's objections and ordered that the CAT should reconsider the case.

In 2007, legal action was taken against Mastercard and others by the European Commission in response to the high interchange fees. Mr Merricks said: 'It is nearly 12 years since Mastercard was clearly told they had broken the law by imposing excessive card transaction charges, damaging consumers over a prolonged period.

'As a result we all had to pay higher prices in the shops than we should have done – while Mastercard have pocketed the profits. Since then they have done nothing to apologise, let alone to pay back the money they wrongly caused us to pay out. It's now time for Mastercard to admit the damage they did, to apologise to the British public, and to agree to pay the compensation they owe.'

The Court of Appeal said Mastercard may not appeal to the Supreme Court and ordered it to pay Mr Merricks' costs. Boris Bronfentrinker, of US law firm Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan which is supporting the case, said: 'This is a satisfying victory, but the focus now shifts to securing compensation for the 46million UK consumers who lost out as a result of Mastercard's action.'

However the finance giant made clear it will be launching further appeals. Mastercard also said it 'continues to disagree fundamentally with the basis of the claim'.

Money Mail – Page 39

SHAMED: firms that charge you to pay by credit card

From the Mail, November 22, 2017

Mastercard facing rip-off payout

July 6, 2016

'Admit the damage they have done'

DJ sets and turntables – it's the BBC's hip hop Proms

CLASSICAL masterpieces, orchestral prowess and sense of occasion have come to define the Proms over the years.

But purists may raise an eyebrow this time around – as the BBC plan to feature hip hop and break dancing.

This year, the concert series will include 'The Breaks' – a prom designed to 'honour the global phenomenon of hip hop and breakbeat culture'. The concert – on September 6 – is likely to spark criticism from traditionalists.

But yesterday, Proms director David Pickard insisted the time was ripe for it as the divisions between musical genres are 'being broken down'. He said: 'I think the Proms needs to reflect what is happening to music in 2019. DJing and concertos for turntables are now part of the classical world.' But he warned the BBC would not 'necessarily' edit foul language if it is there in 'a good artistic context'.

The 2019 series – which runs from 19 July to 14 September – will also include a late night 'mix tape' prom, offering a blend of pieces that promote 'mindfulness'.

■ Queen Victoria's personal grand piano will be played outside of Buckingham Palace for the first time this summer as part of the Proms. Pianist Stephen Hough will perform Mendelssohn's first piano concerto on it during the August 16 concert.

Wind farms are paid £54m of taxpayers' cash ... to stand idle

By **Graham Grant**
Home Affairs Editor

WIND farm operators have been handed more than £50million to shut down their turbines since the start of the year.

The bill has been fuelled by the failure of a £1.1billion underwater energy pipeline that has been hit by a series of faults.

The glitch-ridden Western Link subsea electricity cable, linking Scotland with England and Wales, is out of action after a spate of technical problems.

It was meant to export Scottish wind energy to the south and reduce 'constraint payments', which are paid when turbines shut down. This happens when it is too windy or the creaking National Grid cannot absorb the amount of energy generated by wind farms.

'Increasing consumer costs'

The failure of the underwater link means energy firms have had to be compensated for switching off their turbines in Scotland.

Last night, Dr John Constable, director of the Renewable Energy Foundation (REF), blamed poor UK Government planning for the huge payouts.

He said: 'The late delivery and problems with the Western Link are significantly increasing consumer costs, largely through constraint payments to stop wind from generating north of the Border and to start conventional generation south of the Border.

'Although it is tempting to blame the companies responsible for the Western Link itself, it was the Government that overheated the energy sector, driving the expansion of wind power and its supporting grid, well ahead of the learning curve. This is as much a policy failure as a technological problem.'

The Western Link, which runs from Hunterston, Ayrshire, to North Wales, is the key element in the Scottish Government's renewable energy network, routing electricity supply to the rest of the UK and enabling imports when generation in Scotland is low.

The REF, which scrutinises the 'green' energy market, found constraint payments to Scottish wind farms from February 19 to March 22, when the Western Link was first out of action this year, amounted to £30.4million.

But it broke down again on April 6 and the REF estimates that, with the completion of repairs scheduled for the end of next month, the constraint bill could rise by another £10million.

A total of £54million has been paid in constraints since the start of this year, with Scottish wind farms receiving almost all of that.

Onshore wind farm operators receive constraint payments to power down turbines when supply outstrips local demand and bottlenecks in the grid prevent exports. The money is paid out by National Grid but is charged to consumers and added to electricity bills.

'Overheated the energy sector'

National Grid and Scottish Power Transmission combined to build the Western Link, also ultimately financed by bill payers.

Hannah Smith, of industry body Scottish Renewables, said: 'Constraint payments are a normal part of the efficient management of our electricity system, given the limitations of the UK's ageing energy infrastructure.'

National Grid and Scottish Power confirmed a cable fault had been located around 93 miles from Hunterston.

The Scottish Government said it was aware of the recent faults, adding: 'The Great Britain electricity system operator National Grid is acting on these on behalf of UK ministers, to whom National Grid is accountable.'

Comment – Page 18

Influential: Sir Charles Lyell

£1.4m needed for archive of Scots scientist

Daily Mail Reporter

NOTEBOOKS that belonged to Charles Darwin's Scots mentor could be sold overseas unless a British buyer can meet the £1.4million price tag.

Geologist Sir Charles Lyell – born in Kirriemuir, Angus, in 1797 – laid the foundations for evolutionary biology.

His archive contains almost 300 notebooks and manuscripts – including letters to Darwin.

UK Arts Minister Michael Ellis has ordered a temporary export ban until July 15.

He said: 'This archive reveals the workings of one of the most influential scientists of the last 200 years.'

Peter Barber, of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest, said: 'It is of the utmost importance Lyell's notebooks and papers are retained.'

Handcuffed: Sydney Cole was taken to Palma

Police will ask girl soldier in 'glassing' horror if she wants to press charges

By **Gerard Couzens**

POLICE are to ask a Scottish soldier if she wants to press charges after she was allegedly glassed by her friend in a nightclub in Majorca.

Officers are expected to ask Sarah Ann Garrity, from Glasgow, what action she wants to take against her friend and fellow soldier Sydney Cole, 19, over the incident.

The alleged attack is said to have happened at Banana Disco, Punta Ballena, Magaluf, in the early hours of Monday. Miss Garrity, 22, was left fighting for her life.

Yesterday she was said to remain in a serious condition although some reports stated she was due to be moved out of intensive care at Son Espases Hospital, where she is being treated.

Cole was arrested in connection with the incident. She appeared in court in Palma on Monday before a judge in a closed court hearing and was remanded in custody.

It is believed that she is being held in a 'provisional', or remand, prison. Both of the women are off-duty soldiers. A source said that Cole had been placed under investigation, adding: 'She is initially being investigated on suspicion of an alleged crime of wounding with a dangerous weapon.'

'I could have died, I'm so lucky'

Sources at the hospital, where Miss Garrity is expected to be moved to a general ward from intensive care, said she was 'serious but stable' and recovering.

Investigators said they would seek to talk to her as soon as possible about the nightclub incident.

Well-placed sources said a decision about an eventual prosecution could depend on whether or not Scottish-born Miss Garrity, who lives in Middlesborough and is in the Royal Logistics Corps, decides to make a formal complaint against her close friend.

The pair were on holiday together in the party resort after taking time off to go to Spain.

Miss Garrity had been sharing photos of her and Cole together as recently as a few weeks ago. Local reports said London-born Cole, believed to be in the Adjutant General Corps, had told the judge who remanded her on Monday night that Miss Garrity had punched her and she injured her by accident after parts of a glass she threw on the floor hit her in the neck. Both women are believed to have been under the influence of alcohol when the incident occurred.

Girls together: Sarah Ann Garrity and Sydney Cole

Soldier: Miss Garrity

Cole appeared in court in the same jean shorts and white jacket that she was wearing when she was arrested.

There was no immediate comment from officials regarding the remand in custody.

A friend of Miss Garrity's said: 'Sarah's awake but she's extremely upset, which is to be expected.'

A senior source at the hospital said the attack narrowly missed her jugular vein.

They added: 'Sarah is making a miraculous recovery. She's a very lucky girl. We can't believe she's still here. When we told her this she just cried, "I could have died, I'm so lucky".

'She lost a lot of blood, underwent an emergency operation and it was touch and go she would pull through.

'It's incredible how well she's recovering. We keep telling her how fortunate she's been because her life was in real danger.

'Sarah's now sitting up in bed, talking, eating and drinking. She's chatting on her mobile phone with her family.

'It has surprised us all how quickly she is recovering. Most of all, it's surprised and shocked her.'

The hospital source revealed that Miss Garrity's family are expected to arrive later this week to visit her.

A spokesman for the British Army confirmed last night: 'We are aware of an incident involving two off-duty soldiers in Spain. An investigation by the local Spanish police is ongoing and it would be inappropriate to comment further.'

192,000 stay up to watch Thrones

By **Susie Coen**
TV and Radio Reporter

FOR the show's fans, it was the most anticipated TV series launch in recent memory.

And 192,000 people were so eager to see the start of the eighth season of fantasy drama Game of Thrones that they stayed up until 2am on Monday to watch it.

That was 70,000 more than the number who waited until the early hours for the start of the seventh series in 2017.

Some 2.5 million people recorded the episode and watched it later that day. A further 700,000 viewers tuned in when the episode was repeated 17 hours later at 9pm. The 3.4 million viewers in 24 hours is Sky's biggest overnight audience ever.

Game of Thrones, which has been running for eight years, is based on novels by George R R Martin. The eighth series, starring Kit Harington as Jon Snow and Emilia Clarke as Daenerys Targaryen, cost a reported £69million to make.

The acclaimed show has won 47 Emmy awards, the most ever by a drama series.

Hit series: Thrones stars Kit Harington and Emilia Clarke

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Minister condemns legal aid funding for jihadi bride Begum

By **Rebecca Camber**
Chief Crime Correspondent

THE Defence Secretary yesterday called for a review of legal aid, saying it was a 'shame' public money is being spent on Shamima Begum's fight to return to Britain.

Gavin Williamson said he did not like the fact that taxpayers will foot the bill for the jihadi bride's legal challenge against Home Secretary Sajid Javid's decision to remove her citizenship.

His comments come after the Daily Mail revealed that Begum, who ran away to Syria aged 15, will get public funding for her legal battle.

Mr Williamson told ITV News: 'It is something that people cannot see as to why she is getting legal aid.

'People make a choice and she made a choice in terms of turning her back on this country. The Home Secretary has made a judgment, it was a fair judgment, and it is a shame public money is going this way.'

Asked if legal aid rules should be changed, he said: 'This is something that needs to be looked at afresh.'

Begum, 19, is now living in a refugee camp in Syria after spending four years with terror group Isis.

Her family launched a legal challenge on her behalf.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has defended Begum's right to apply for legal aid, saying: 'She is a British national and, therefore, she has that right, like any of us do, to apply for legal aid if she has a problem.'

Begum's brother-in-law Muhammad Rahman, 36, said: 'She should face the charges against her and if she and the family wants that to happen in Britain, then I support that. I can imagine they are celebrating after hearing legal aid is going to be granted.'

The Legal Aid Agency said: 'We are unable to comment on individual cases.'

Appeal: Begum, whose baby died in Syrian camp

SOFT JUSTICE, THE BACKLASH

Sturgeon is flooded with letters from angry voters over notorious case of child abuser who walked free

By **Graham Grant**
Home Affairs Editor

SCOTLAND'S justice system has been branded a 'disgrace' after ministers were deluged with complaints about the soft-touch treatment of a child sex offender.

Nicola Sturgeon and her Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf have received dozens of letters from Scots voicing their anger following the sentencing of Christopher Daniel, 18.

Daniel sexually assaulted a six-year-old girl but was granted an absolute discharge at Dumbarton Sheriff Court last December, meaning he would not be placed on the sex offenders' register or have a criminal record.

This sentence was not appealed by the Crown Office, as it did not meet the strict test of 'undue leniency' – prompting the victim's family to consider a crowd-funded judicial review in a bid to get justice.

Scottish Tory justice spokesman Liam Kerr said: 'Nicola Sturgeon can no longer be in any doubt as to the anger caused by her and her party's soft-touch approach to justice. Her government has received dozens of letters from furious Scots who were rightly appalled by a convicted child abuser walking free from court with no punishment whatsoever.

'These letters rightly point out the dangerous message this sends, and that it once again reinforces the belief that our justice system does not do enough to support victims.'

A freedom of information request from the Scottish Tories has revealed 91 letters were sent to Miss Sturgeon's government lambasting a justice system which they claimed discourages victims from coming forward, and provides them with little support when they do.

Some of the letters were sent by survivors of sexual violence, with others writing that 'the system in Scotland does not protect these children, it protects the abusers'.

In another letter, a Scot living in Wales said he 'would certainly not want to come back to a legal system where the sentence depends on money, privilege, education and type of job a person expects to get'.

One correspondent said: 'I'd get more punishment if I failed to pay a parking ticket.'

There are also fears that Daniel, who is training to be a dentist, may have access to vulnerable patients.

SOFT TOUCH JUSTICE

Last night a woman who won a civil rape case and is now leading a campaign for Scotland's not proven verdict to be scrapped said the Daniel case underlined her concern that 'Scotland is repeatedly letting victims of sexual crimes down', and that 'the criminal courts are not providing justice to survivors'.

The woman, who cannot be named, said: 'I have nothing positive to say about the criminal process. Scotland needs to wake up, we are letting survivors down and letting rapists and abusers walk free.'

Sheriff Gerard Sinclair sparked criticism after ruling that a harsher punishment would damage Daniel's career prospects – saying that the teenager had been guilty only of 'inappropriate curiosity'.

This was despite Daniel repeatedly touching the child over her clothing while he was aged between 15 and 17 and she was between six and eight.

A spokesman for the Judicial Office for Scotland said: 'The independence of the judiciary is a vital component of a democratic society. When sentencing, a judge will take into account the particular circumstances of the case, as presented to the court by the prosecution and the defence.'

The Crown Office said: 'Officials from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service have met with the family to provide them with information about the handling of this case and the Crown's role in appeals against sentencing.'

A spokesman for Mr Yousaf said: 'Judges and sheriffs are independent and have discretion over sentencing in each case.'

'The system does not protect these children, it protects the abusers...'

Some of the comments in the letters to the Scottish Government include:

'All that this case illustrates is how pointless the justice process is and [how it deters] other victims from stepping forward'

'It is clear to me that once again this system offers more support to abusers as opposed to the defenceless victim'

'We wonder why rape and sexual assault victims do not come forward. This is why. Where is the justice for this little girl?'

'The fact this paedophile isn't facing any legal action is a disgrace to our judicial system'

'I was sexually molested for years as a young girl... and guess what? The person who made my life hell never put a foot in jail'

'The system in Scotland does not protect these children, it protects the abusers. This has to change'

'This is a blow to the confidence of victims'

Anger: Christopher Daniel was spared punishment

One extra ultrasound could slash emergency Caesareans

By **Victoria Allen**
Science Correspondent

MORE than 4,000 risky emergency Caesareans could be avoided every year if women were given an extra ultrasound scan in late pregnancy, a study shows.

Mothers-to-be typically have the scans at eight to 14 weeks into pregnancy and then again between 18 and 21 weeks.

Experts say another ultrasound at 36 weeks would help spot breech babies – those the wrong way round in the womb. They are usually delivered by emergency Caesarean, which carries a higher risk of bleeding for the mother.

Having an extra scan could give doctors time to try to turn the baby around, or allow a safer planned Caesarean.

The researchers, who looked at late ultrasounds given to almost 4,000 first-time mothers, found one in 40 detected a breech baby doctors would not have done. If used routinely across the UK, they say it could detect almost 15,000 breech babies a year.

'Scans could be done cheaply'

Study co-author Dr Alexandros Moraitis, of the University of Cambridge, said: 'These scans could be done cheaply during a routine midwife's visit with a portable ultrasound.

'An additional cost of the scan would be cancelled out by the saving of detecting a breech baby and avoiding an emergency Caesarean.'

Dr Moraitis said this could be 'a huge relief' for thousands of mothers and spare them 'extreme stress'.

Doctors determine if a baby is upside down by feeling for its head and body through a woman's abdomen. But the study found this worked only 44 per cent of the time, missing more than half of breech babies.

Day 500 climate 'rebels' held capital to ransom

29 arrested in Edinburgh after eco protests spread from London

Disruption: Protesters block North Bridge in Edinburgh yesterday

Blockade: Police and protesters in Edinburgh, left, while an arrest is made in London

By **Jemma Buckley** and **Jamie Munn**

NEARLY 30 'eco warriors' were arrested yesterday after hundreds of protesters blockaded a busy road in Edinburgh.

Around 500 people took over the capital's North Bridge in a five-hour demonstration against what they say is a 'climate emergency'.

The mob, part of the Left-wing Extinction Rebellion group, later tried to get onto Princes Street but the few who broke through were removed by police.

Three people, including one in a wheelchair, lay down on an island in the middle of the road and had to be moved by police. Dozens of cyclists also caused traffic tailbacks.

Extinction Rebellion is demanding the Government reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025. Its Scottish arm called for Holyrood to 'tell the truth about the climate and ecological crisis and reverse any inconsistent policies' as members began their demonstration around 3pm.

Protester Mim Black said the roadblock would be the first of many demonstrations. She added: 'We're disrupting "business as usual" because it is that that's killing the planet. We'll keep doing this until our demands are met.'

Fellow protester Tom Younger said: 'We're demanding the Government goes zero carbon by 2025. We need a citizens' assembly to get us there because our political system isn't capable of delivering the changes that we need.'

Police Scotland said 17 men and 12 women were arrested for breach of the peace. They will appear in court in the coming days.

Police in London arrested 209 people during two days of protests after climate change activists blocked junctions including Oxford Circus and Marble Arch.

On Monday, activists hung a banner from the Finnieston Crane in Glasgow.

In London, the activists have already brought misery to 500,000 commuters over two days by blocking major roads, shutting down 55 bus routes.

Last night they threatened to disrupt rail and Tube networks as well. London Mayor Sadiq Khan said: 'Targeting public transport would only damage the cause of all of us who want to tackle climate change, and I would implore anyone considering doing so to think again.'

Police have been accused of being too slow to move on the hundreds of activists. Despite making more than 200 arrests, yesterday police were unable to move the largely middle-class protesters from Waterloo Bridge, which remained shut for a second day.

Met Police Chief Superintendent Colin Wingrove said: 'We have officers on the ground engaging with protesters and local communities to ensure proportionate policing plans are in place.

'We need to ensure we are striking the right balance between allowing the right to a peaceful protest, while ensuring that disruption to communities is kept to a minimum.'

Business owners have complained that the protests – also happening at Oxford Circus, Marble Arch, Parliament Square and Piccadilly Circus – are hammering their takings.

Jay Patel, 26, manager of Marble Arch News on Edgware Road, which is within one of the road block zones, said: 'It's completely ridiculous, we are losing so much money because of this.'

Even one bacon rasher can raise cancer risk

Daily Mail Reporter

EVEN moderate amounts of ham, bacon and red meat are linked to bowel cancer, experts warn today.

Adults who stick to NHS guidelines of 70g red and processed meat a day still increase their risk of bowel cancer by a fifth compared with those who eat 21g a day, they said.

For red meat only, the risk was 15 per cent higher for those who ate 54g per day (about one thick slice of roast beef or one lamb chop) on average compared with those who consumed 8g per day, scientists found.

Their research, part-funded by Cancer Research UK, also said that for processed meat only, the risk was 19 per cent higher for those who had an average of 29g per day (about one rasher of bacon or a slice of ham) compared with those who had an average of 5g per day.

The study, published in the International Journal of Epidemiology, examined data from 475,581 people aged 40 to 69 for an average of 5.7 years, in which 2,609 of them developed bowel cancer.

There was some good news, however – those with a high intake of fibre from bread and breakfast cereals lowered their risk of bowel cancer by 14 per cent.

Cancer Research spokesman Dr Julie Sharp said: 'This doesn't necessarily mean cutting out red and processed meat entirely.

'You could try doing meat-free Mondays, looking for recipes using fresh chicken and fish, or swapping meat for pulses like beans and lentils.'

Daily Mail
COMMENT

NHS must answer for cancer blunders

THE diagnosis of breast cancer is a harrowing experience, creating enormous anxiety. Chemotherapy is often life-saving, but can be extremely gruelling, both for patients and their families.

We can only imagine the distress of women in Tayside after they discovered serious questions had been raised over the effectiveness of their treatment, long after it was completed.

An alarming watchdog's report published yesterday found breast cancer patients in the area were put at 'significant' risk of relapse after chemotherapy doses were slashed.

NHS Tayside administered lower doses of the medication than elsewhere in the UK to more than 300 women, 14 of whom later died. Damningly, patients were kept in the dark about the problem partly because of the potential impact on 'departmental reputation'.

It is reprehensible that bureaucrats put the risk to their own public profile ahead of the need to be entirely open about a scandal they knew would cause widespread concern. These are appalling failures which have caused further misery for hundreds of women now fearful that treatment they believed had worked may have been deficient.

It is vital that the board is held fully to account for grave blunders which have profoundly undermined public confidence in NHS treatment of breast cancer sufferers.

Wind farm waste

ALEX Salmond once vowed that Scotland would become the 'Saudi Arabia of renewables' – a pledge that remains utterly implausible.

The green energy drive has become increasingly farcical, with millions of pounds squandered on 'constraint payments' for wind farm operators.

These are absurd and scandalous payouts for energy companies to compensate them for switching off their turbines when it is very windy, bankrolled by bill payers.

There had been high hopes that a £1.1billion undersea connector exporting energy south of the Border – the Western Link project – would help to slash these sky-high costs. But for months the cable has been plagued by technical faults and is now out of action, meaning constraint payouts continue to be pumped into the coffers of energy firms.

At the weekend, more than £1million was handed to Scottish wind farm operators in the space of a single day, and since the start of the year a total of more than £50million has been paid out to have turbines turned off.

The green lobby and its supporters in government are steadfastly refusing to admit the expensive lunacy of a poorly-planned green agenda that has spiralled out of control.

■ WILL a day ever pass without news of another anti-Semitic Labour MP or candidate crawling out from under a rock? Yesterday, arch-Corbynista Richard Burgon, the party's bungling justice spokesman, was exposed as a liar after he denied saying 'Zionism is the enemy of peace'. Awkwardly, he'd made the slur on film. The Labour leader has a foul history of clasping virulent Jew-haters to his bosom. No wonder his acolytes are so comfortable embracing this insidious form of racism.

■ OUR hearts go out to the people of Paris after the inferno that ripped through Notre Dame. Mercifully, the Gothic masterpiece was not completely destroyed – as our reporter Robert Hardman, among the first inside, testified. All that has gone can be rebuilt. But it is a salutary warning to Britain. Parliament, parts of which date to 1097, is in a dreadful state, a tinderbox at risk of conflagration. If refurbishment work does not start swiftly and disaster strikes, our politicians will not be forgiven.

The power of the human spirit in a godless age... and the true reason Notre Dame's flames wrenched our hearts

by A.N. Wilson

WHEN we first heard the news, it wrenched at our hearts. We all felt we were losing something infinitely precious and something almost personal to ourselves.

As the fire hoses were trained on the inferno, men and women were running bravely in and out of the flaming building, saving here a statue, a religious relic, there a painting, a precious vestment — each separate object in its way a symbol of the huge numbers of human beings whose creativity had made this place.

Human beings whose deepest hopes, imaginative dreams and aspirations had helped create what is perhaps the greatest cathedral in the world.

Passionate

Notre Dame has been, for all of us, an embodiment of Paris and its history. Of that city's medieval Catholic past, its religious wars, its national triumphs and disasters.

When I try to put into words what it was like on Monday evening to see the images of Notre Dame in flames, it seems almost uncanny to me now. Because only two weeks ago, looking round for something to read on a holiday, I took it into my head to read Victor Hugo's masterpiece which most of us know as The Hunchback Of Notre Dame. Its French title is simply, Notre Dame De Paris, one of the great works of French literature.

I had never read the book, and knew only the 1939 film with Charles Laughton as Quasimodo the hunchback, obsessed with love for Esmerelda and deafened by 'the bells, the bells!' But it begins with a great disquisition on Gothic architecture and what we all owe to it.

Hugo, who wrote the book in 1830, could not have been more vivid and passionate in his descriptions of Notre Dame with its flying buttresses and towering spires, its high arching interiors. He regarded its architects as poets who had liberated man's spirit.

Soaring to the heavens, the cathedral was to him the greatest expression of collective human endeavour and, though he was a non-believer, of humanity's faith in God.

The paradox of Notre Dame today — and, indeed, of all the great Gothic cathedrals of Europe — is that in this largely post-Christian age it has outlasted its original reason for existing.

And yet that is why it matters so much to us, modern, confused and agnostic as most of us are.

In times of faith, the cathedral was divisive. The French were tearing themselves apart with religious wars — Protestant versus Catholic — in the 16th century, and they tried to abolish Christianity with equal zeal during the Revolution, demolishing other Gothic cathedrals and churches while Notre Dame thankfully survived.

But now, in our secular world, cathedrals unify us as never before.

Why do these wonderful great Gothic edifices of the Middle Ages, and Notre Dame in particular, have such enormous significance in our lives? Why do hundreds of thousands of visitors each year flock to Notre Dame, Chartres, Westminster Abbey, Salisbury, York Minster, Cologne?

It is because we recognise that the cathedrals of the Middle Ages are among the greatest — I would say *the* greatest — works of art in Europe. This is partly because they are not the work of individuals, but of whole communities.

Unlike the symphonies of Beethoven or the plays of Shakespeare, they are anonymous and collective. European humanity made them over centuries, and European humanity has loved and adapted and needed them ever since they were built.

It is astonishing to me that we use the word 'medieval' as a term of abuse. We say, 'It is positively medieval' to mean some practice is brutal, cruel or unsophisticated.

When we use such a phrase, we should look at the architecture produced in our own age — inhuman tower blocks, multi-storey car parks smelling of urine, ugly shopping malls — and ask what we have built that comes within a million miles of the sophistication of Notre Dame.

And we should then ask what that building set out to do. Yes, in the narrowest terms, Notre Dame set out to be a place of Catholic worship, where monks could chant the psalms and mutter the mass.

But a cathedral is making a statement about humanity, about the centrality of beauty to human experience and about the ultimate, awe-inspiring puzzle of our existence.

Cherish

To these buildings, nations have come together in their times of great collective experience, for the state funerals, royal weddings, solemn memories of war that bind us all together.

To these buildings, too, however, when no ceremonies are in progress, millions of men and women have come quietly for hundreds of years with their own secret sorrows, joys and hopes.

And, staring upwards at the swooping arches and coloured glass and the carved statues of kings, virgins, prophets and angels, they have confronted the deep mystery of the world.

Lord Salisbury, the great Victorian prime minister, addressing a group of scientists in 1894, said: 'We live in a small bright oasis of knowledge surrounded on all sides by a vast unexplored region of impenetrable mystery.'

In our own day, some so-called born-again atheists have ignored this fact. They have held out the pathetic illusion that every aspect of life can be explained in materialist terms.

The huge numbers of people who cherish our cathedrals know this is not the case, and that at the deepest level, while retaining all our critical faculties and all our powers of reason, we need these spaces, and the music and light they contain.

Vivid

Our hearts cracked when we saw Notre Dame burn for another reason. It happened at a time of miserable squabbling over the future of Europe. Brexit has made some people imagine that Europe is a dirty word.

The truth is that whatever we think about Brexit or a customs union, or any of the esoteric options lying before our often-idiotic politicians, we are all heirs of a great common history.

So much of our music, our philosophy, our idea of right and wrong, came to us filtered through the Christian story, whatever we might make of that story now.

We do not necessarily believe in the way our forebears did. But this only increases our devotion to the Gothic masterpieces of the Age of Faith.

Few houses of faith have such a vivid story to tell as Notre Dame de Paris.

The work of rebuilding will begin as soon as the rubble is cleared. The common determination to restore the place will be shared not only by the people of France, but by all Europeans — who, as they watch Notre Dame rise again, will once again marvel at the values and stories and human creativity embodied in such a temple.

Sarah Vine

Columnist of the year

Oh baby, Meghan's got a lot to learn

THERE was something about the wonderful pictures of the Duchess of Sussex as a newborn in the arms of her mother Doria in the Mail this week that reminded me a little of the arrival of my own daughter, almost 16 years ago.

The same cross little expression on the baby and the same look in her new mother's eyes, a mixture of shock, exhaustion and awe.

But most of all, in the background, the calm and knowing presence of Granny.

No one knows better how your first birth is likely to turn out than your own mother, who's been there, done that and can offer honest, practical advice. And just as her mother was such a reassuring presence, I'm sure Doria, now it's Meghan's turn, has been a fount of wisdom for her daughter.

As we know, Meghan — due any day now — is planning a midwife-led home labour, away from the 'men in suits'. She also reportedly favours a water birth, and is using yoga, meditation and homeopathy to prepare for the arrival.

Apparently, she wants it to be 'as natural as possible: no drugs, no caesareans and so on'.

I would expect nothing less from this most modern of young royals who has always been a staunch advocate of a healthy, holistic lifestyle. If anyone has a chance of achieving the kind of magical, mystical birth that every woman dreams of, it's her. But I do hope Doria is advising Meghan to keep her feet on the ground over this apparent desire for perfection.

I have nothing against home births, water births — or for that matter any kind of birth.

It's just that having babies is not an exact science. Labour can, it is true, be a beautiful experience. But it can also be savage and elemental. And you never really know how it's going to pan out.

To be prepared, a woman really needs to be open to all eventualities. Yet a whole industry seems to have sprung up to feed mothers-to-be the notion we are wholly in control of the process (we are not: that's Mother Nature prerogative, and she is a capricious old cow) and that there is a right and wrong way of having a baby.

In recent years, this has come to mean that having a child without medical intervention or pain relief is in some way morally superior. Natural good; medically assisted bad.

JUNE BROWN — Dot Cotton in EastEnders — is absolutely right when she says there's no point in giving up the booze and fags at her age (92). It reminds me of the time — years ago — when my father gave up drinking. After about six weeks he took it up again. His reasoning? If unremitting sobriety was going to be the rest of his life, he could see no reason to prolong it.

It's an attitude summed up by a friend of mine who, having undergone an elective caesarean with her second child following serious complications with her first, was asked by her health visitor whether she ever 'felt cheated' she didn't 'have a proper labour'. The answer, of course, was no. Or at least she hadn't up until then.

There is nothing wrong with having an ideal vision of how you would like your baby to be born. Just as long as you keep in mind that things may turn out to be very different.

OTHERWISE you could end up like another friend who had her heart completely set on a water birth at home.

She and her husband had it all worked out: the pool, the TENS machine, the fairy lights, the beach balls, the Peruvian pan pipe music — everything.

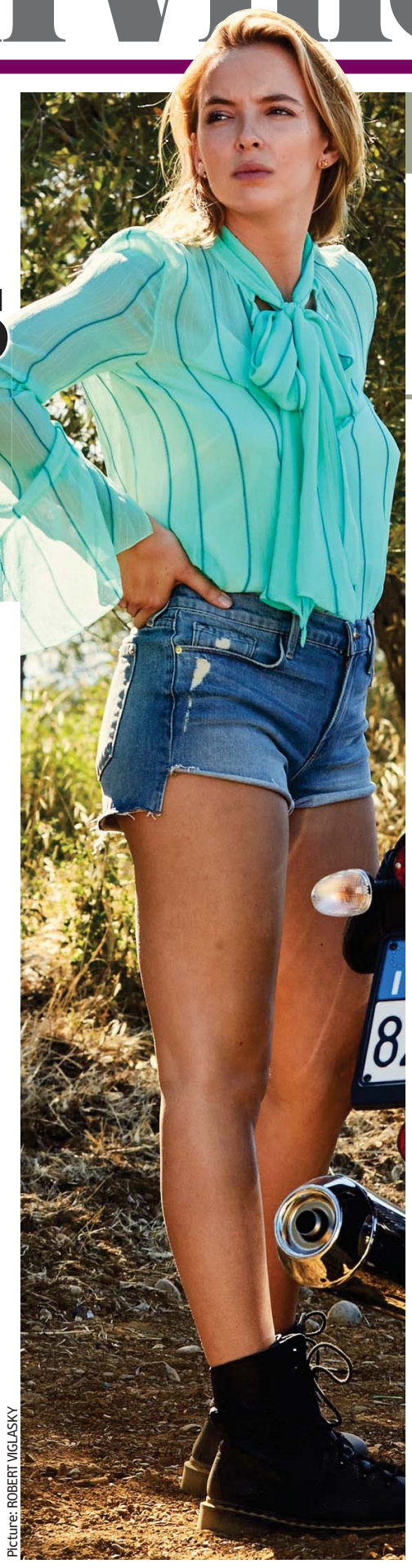
I spoke to her just as she was going into labour. Then waited for the jubilant phone call. And waited. And waited. Nothing.

Two days later, a shaken new father called me. It had been a car crash, hours of agony ending in a mad dash to the hospital and an emergency caesarean.

My poor friend was traumatised — all the worse because she had expected it to be such a wonderful, 'empowering' experience.

I'm sure that Meghan will be fine. Not least because if things don't go according to plan, those dreaded 'men in suits' will be on standby with their pesky science to make sure no harm comes to either her or the baby.

But I would just urge her not to get too fixated on the idea of the 'perfect birth'.



Picture: ROBERT VIGLASKY

A touch of Killing Eve, 007?

CAN everyone please stop raving about Fleabag? I'm as keen as the next person, but there is a fine line between adored and over-exposed, and we don't want the nation to reach peak Phoebe Waller-Bridge before — as rumoured — she has worked her magic on the new James Bond movie. If she can bring even a little bit of Villanelle — the mesmerising anti-heroine of Killing Eve (played by Jodie Comer, pictured) — to 007's stuffy old-school format, then we could be in for the ride of our lives.

Call me a knucklehead...

I'M AFRAID the news that Shamima Begum might be in receipt of legal aid to pursue her right to remain a British citizen just drives me mad.

So many of my rational, better-educated friends have tried to persuade me that I am being a knucklehead, that she deserves to have her case heard, that it is the mark of a truly civilised society that we should respect her human rights.

Yeah, yeah...I have no doubt that, morally and philosophically, they are correct. But it still gets me in the gut.

I thought it was revolting that Islamist hate preacher Abu Hamza managed to play the legal system so successfully, evading justice while at the same time mocking everything we hold dear; and I think it equally reprehensible that Shamima Begum — who has so blatantly embraced an ideology that presided over the rape, murder, torture and genocide of thousands of innocents — should also benefit.

I don't care about the moral high ground; I care about right and wrong. And wasting a single penny of taxpayers' money on that woman just sticks in the craw.

AS A long-time fan of Game Of Thrones, I must confess to finding the first episode of the final series incredibly dull and ponderous. The joy of this show was always its outlandish absurdity, but now it — and all the main characters — seems to be taking it all far too seriously. Especially Jon Snow and Daenerys (right), who are moping around like a pair of lovelorn goths, giving new meaning to the saying: 'It's grim up north.' Lighten up, guys: less hand-wringing and more gnashing of teeth. Preferably big, sharp, pointy dragon ones...

NEXT is introducing half sizes to help women find a pair of jeans that fit perfectly. I must confess, I've never found jeans that fitted. Even when I was young and relatively sylph-like, jeans were always a nightmare. After years of stuffing myself into variously uncomfortable and unyielding pieces of unflattering denim, I gave up. I haven't worn jeans for years — I don't even own a pair. Has my life been less fulfilling as a result? No. What a load of nonsense.

TO ALL the very-pleased-with-themselves eco-warriors reducing London to a standstill: you do know that the very worst thing for toxic emissions is an idling engine, don't you? And that thanks to you, thousands of Londoners — including many inner-city children whose families can't afford to take them on holiday this week — will be inhaling several times the amount of traffic fumes they normally do.

Save Big Ben from catastrophe

THE terrible fire at Notre Dame is a salutary reminder of the deep emotions that iconic monuments provoke. A case in point is the Palace of Westminster. Majestic as it is, this great Neo-Gothic landmark is, rather like the democracy it represents, in desperate need of renovation.

It is riddled with rot and asbestos, infested with vermin, the plumbing is pre-war — and the whole thing is a giant fire hazard.

In the past decade, over 40 fires have broken out within its walls. It is not a question of 'if', rather when. And yet whenever a restoration programme is suggested the reaction is one of horror: how can we possibly justify spending vast sums of money (latest estimates put the cost of the works at around £3.5 billion) on MPs when public trust in politics is at an all-time low?

But that's not the point. MPs come and go: this is about the nation.

The Houses of Parliament are so much more than the people who work there, just as Notre Dame is so much more than a Catholic church.

It doesn't matter how broken our democracy is: if we don't ever want to witness the clocktower of Big Ben toppling like the spire of Notre Dame, we need to act.

EU CHIEF: WHY ARE

I fear they will run down clock again, warns top negotiator

By **Daniel Martin**
Policy Editor

A SENIOR EU negotiator said yesterday he believes Britain will waste its latest Brexit extension.

Guy Verhofstadt, European Parliament Brexit coordinator, said the UK will probably 'run down the clock' once again.

He criticised MPs' decision to go off on holiday as soon as the six-month extension had been agreed.

Mr Verhofstadt said delaying Brexit to the end of October risked prolonging the uncertainty of the process because it was 'too near for a substantial rethink and at the same time too far away to prompt any action'.

In an address to the European Parliament, he said: 'My fear is that with this decision, the pressure to come to a cross-party agreement disappears. And that both parties, the Conservatives and Labour, will again do what they did for months – run down the clock.

'And the proof of this is that the first decision the House of Commons took after your decision was to go on holidays.'

Mr Verhofstadt said both parties could be wiped out in May's European elections, adding: 'Maybe the only thing that can save us is Nigel Farage now.'

The intervention came as EU Council president Donald Tusk said he still believed Britain may not leave the EU.

The Brussels chief told MEPs in Strasbourg that after Brexit was delayed until October 31 the UK would continue to be represented in the European Parliament for 'several months – maybe longer'.

European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker told MEPs the EU would also be hit by the disruption a No Deal Brexit would bring to the UK.

He said: 'Our union has nothing to gain from great disruption in the United Kingdom.

'The only ones who would benefit are those who resent multilateralism and seek to undermine the global legal order.'

Nigel Farage claimed his new Brexit Party would 'sweep the board' at the elections on May 23.

He told the European Parliament: 'There is only one way it can be stopped and that is if the governing party of Mrs May and the opposition of Mr Corbyn come together and agree to a permanent customs union, and indeed effectively membership of the single market.

'If that happens, the Brexit Party won't win the European elections but it will win the general election because the betrayal will be so complete and utter, so I don't believe it's going to happen.'

In Westminster, cross-party talks between Labour and the Government continued at an official level but Jeremy Corbyn yesterday warned they were stalling.

The Labour leader said the party had put its case that the future relationship with Europe had to mean a customs union, but added Mrs May was under pressure from Tories who wanted 'to turn this country into a deregulated low-tax society' to do a trade deal with US President Donald Trump. He added: 'I don't want to do that.'

CHEERING MPs GET ANOTHER HOLIDAY

From the Daily Mail, April 12

... and for once, as these brazen

Andrew Pierce reporting

GIVEN his role as the European Parliament's Brexit co-ordinator it's rare that he says anything us Britons agree with. But yesterday Guy Verhofstadt spoke for many when he warned that Britain's dithering MPs are once again running down the clock until the next No Deal Brexit cliff-edge in October.

'The proof of this,' he said incredulously, 'is the first decision the Commons has taken – to go on holidays.'

Mr Verhofstadt had a point. While we're all working, the Commons has shut down for an 11-day Easter recess, and dozens of MPs, who have stymied Brexit and reduced Britain to an international laughing stock, are tweeting merrily about their holidays without a care in the world.

Quite who'll be interested in these snaps with their trite messages is anyone's guess.

Take Tory Luke Graham, a Tory MP who did not waste any time flying out of Britain, publishing a picture of himself beside a tulip-bed in Amsterdam with an expansive gesture and a wide grin.

Meanwhile, eyebrows were raised at the veteran Conservative MP Sir Bernard Jenkin's decision to go on holiday in Belgium, the procedural heart of the EU. Sir Bernard, a leading figure in the arch-Brexiteer European Research Group (ERG) of Tory MPs – many of whom staunchly opposed the Prime Minister's Withdrawal Agreement – is on a sightseeing tour of Ghent, less than an hour from Brussels. 'I thought Belgium would be the last place anyone would expect to see Bernard Jenkin,' sniffed one Theresa May loyalist.

The similarly hardline Eurosceptic Steve Baker, who resigned as Brexit minister last

Tweets from Amsterdam: Luke Graham in a tulip bed in Holland

Broadband set-up: £9.95 router delivery. Sky TV customers: £10 activation fee. Existing Sky Broadband customers upgrading to Sky Fibre Max: £50 activation fee. Speeds vary by location. Service activation may take up to two weeks. Selected Fibre areas only. Available to new customers signing up to new 18-month minimum terms for Sky Fibre Max (£8.01 per month (pm)), Sky Pay As You Talk (£0 pm) and Sky Line Rental (£18.99 pm). Standard prices apply after 18 months. (Currently £45.99 for Sky Fibre Max). Average download speed 63Mb. Speeds vary by location. External factors such as internet congestion and home wiring can affect speed. Wi-Fi speeds vary by device and home entertainment. See sky.com for more details, usage policies and to check your speeds. **Subject to status. Upfront payment may be required. General**: Separate contracts apply to Sky Fibre Max and Sky Talk. Prices may go up during your contract. Non-standard set-up may cost extra. Prices may vary if you live in a flat. You must get any consents required (e.g. landlord's). UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man residential customers only. Further terms apply. Correct at 12/04/2019.

MPs ON HOLIDAY?

selfies show, the Mail agrees with Brussels

Belgian break: Bernard Jenkin's snap of his wife Anne in Ghent

Commons peaker: Rachel Maclean with her dogs on a walking holiday in the Lake District

Devon on earth: Nadine Dorries (inset) on her beach break

summer, has returned to his native Cornwall for his Easter break. The MP for Wycombe, who was born in St Austell, posted photographs of Mevagissey Harbour and the interior of a pub.

Mr Baker, the deputy chairman of the ERG, rejects any responsibility for the fact Brexit still hasn't happened – even though he has voted three times against the PM's deal.

The Labour ex-cabinet minister Yvette Cooper, an architect of the move to wrest power from government on Brexit and hand it to Parliament, has travelled to Paris. Ms Cooper, whose Bill taking a No Deal Brexit off the table was passed by a single vote, published a photograph of the blaze at Notre Dame Cathedral, saying: 'Have just come away from the bank of the Seine after the spire fell as I can't bear to watch any more.'

Ellie Reeves, the Labour MP for Lewisham West and Penge, is in Wales. She posted a photograph by a cosy wood stove, saying: 'It's been a busy few months. Taking some time out in Wales for a much needed rest.'

Nadine Dorries, another Brexiteer Tory MP who has reluctantly voted for Mrs May's deal, posted a photograph of a remote beach in Devon. 'Sunny but freezing!' was her verdict.

Brexiteer Tory MP Rachel Maclean, who also supports the PM's deal, is on a walking holiday in the Lake District with her two rescue dogs.

The Redditch MP paid tribute to the animals' ascent of Blencathra: 'Well done Herbie on his first proper hill – he razzled up and down with no problem at all!' she wrote. 'Following in his big sister Phoebe's steps.'

Let's hope the MPs – including the Prime Minister herself, quietly walking in Snowdonia – are enjoying these breaks while they last. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn warned yesterday that Brexit talks with the Government are on the verge of collapse.

Our lawmakers may soon need their phones for more than tweeting jolly holiday snaps. They might find themselves summoned back on them to get back to work.

PUGH

'It's the only time we ever see our MP!'

Rudd 'keeping the door slightly ajar' to Tory Party leadership bid

WORK and Pensions Secretary Amber Rudd has said it was 'entirely possible' she would run to become Tory leader.

In a BBC radio interview Miss Rudd said she 'didn't have a plan' to stand in a leadership contest but repeatedly refused to rule out joining the race. She also played down suggestions she would team up with Boris Johnson on a joint ticket.

She said: 'I'm going to continue to support the Prime Minister, she has said that she is going to leave after the withdrawal agreement of the first stage is through.'

Asked what she will do then, she replied: 'I can tell you I don't have a plan for it, I'm choosing my words carefully here.'

Pressed on whether she was 'working on it' she replied: 'No, I'm not particularly working on it... what I've said is that I'm not planning to run, so I have kept the door slightly ajar, but I'm not committed to it at the moment.'

Teachers chant for Corbyn as he vows to axe primary tests

A PLEDGE by Jeremy Corbyn to scrap Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) in primary schools south of the Border was met with a standing ovation by teachers yesterday – but triggered a backlash amid warnings it would send standards plummeting.

The Labour leader's announcement, made during the National Education Union's (NEU) conference in Liverpool, promised to abolish the 'regime of extreme pressure testing' if he wins the next election.

He claimed the numeracy and literacy tests – taken by 11-year-olds – give pupils 'nightmares' and harm mental health.

But Westminster Schools Minister Nick Gibb said: 'They have been pivotal in raising standards. Abolishing these tests would be a terrible, retrograde step.'

SATs were implemented under John Major and continued under New Labour.

Dr Mary Bousted, NEU joint general secretary, said: 'Jeremy Corbyn recognises the damage a test-driven system is doing to children and schools.'

House that cares for you

Hi-tech that'll let dementia sufferers live independently

By **Ben Spencer**
Medical Correspondent

THIS is the hi-tech house with the goal of revolutionising dementia care.

Packed with sensors that can pick up on everything from changes in eating habits to looming infections, such a home aims to allow dementia sufferers to live independently.

The Government-backed project could keep thousands of elderly people out of care homes or hospital wards.

Early trials show scanners, miniature radar monitors and door sensors can be used to track movement, pick up early signs of infection and alert relatives if someone has fallen.

Within a decade, a cheap 'dementia kit' could be prescribed by a GP and installed by an engineer to transform any home, scientists say.

They believe such technology could transform the 'broken' dementia care system in which many families are abandoned to cope without help from the NHS.

The project – a partnership between Imperial College and Surrey University – is the focus of a £20million dementia research centre at Imperial's new campus in west London. Scientists believe the technology – much of which is already available – could cut thousands of hospital admissions by monitoring patterns of behaviour and picking up problems early.

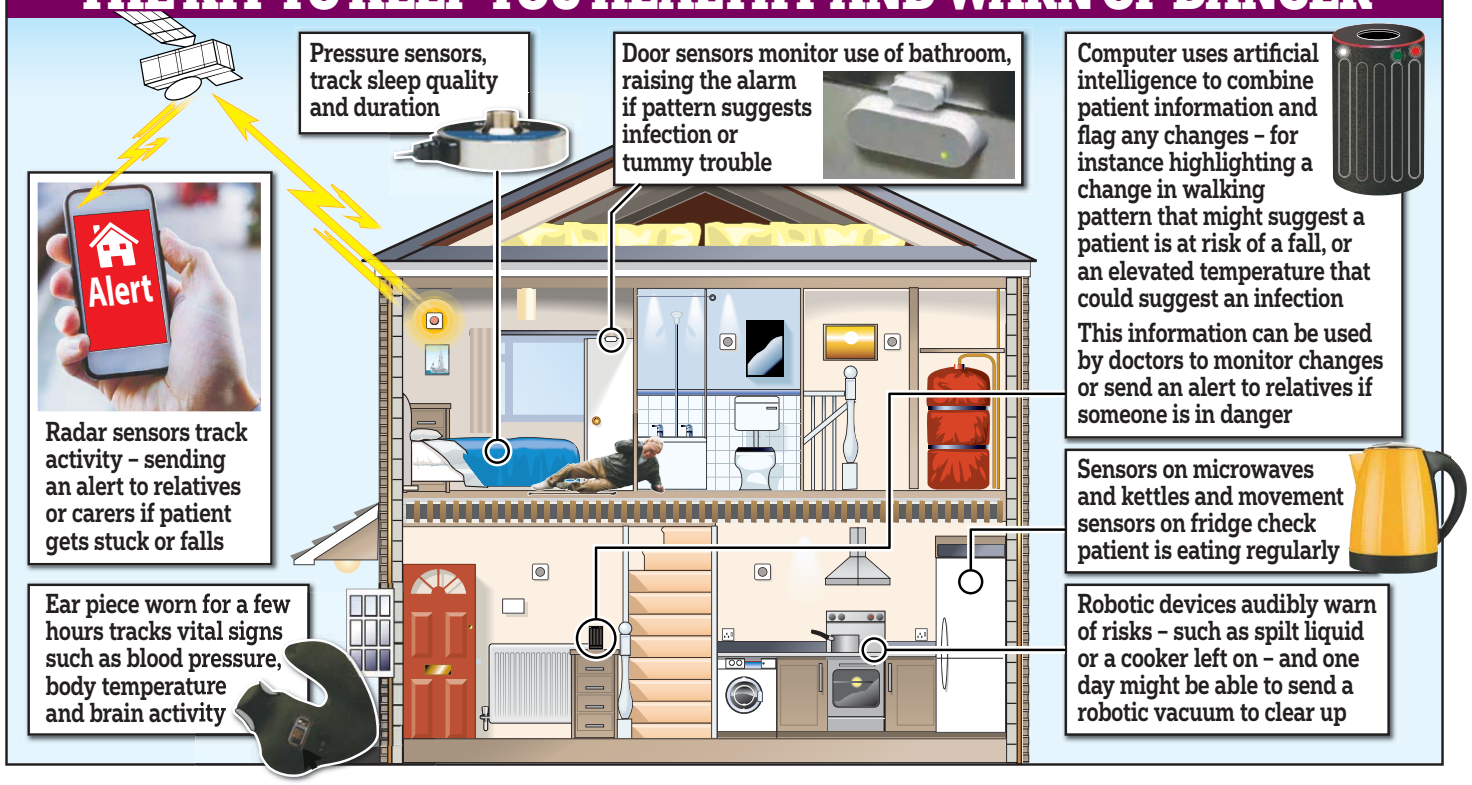
Crucially it is very cheap – with sensors costing as little as £10 with apps and software that control the system available for free. The most expensive part would be a smartphone to view the data.

Professor David Sharp, head of the new centre, said doctors could begin offering such technology within ten years.

'You might have your dementia engineer come over and deploy the technology into your home,' he said. 'So this may sound like science fiction, but I think many of the elements of this are in place.'

Technology being developed includes sensors to track a patient's heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature, as well as brain activity, sleep and even someone's gait.

THE KIT TO KEEP YOU HEALTHY AND WARN OF DANGER



Pictures: GC IMAGES

Hugh've got to be Kidding me...

Tender: Hugh Grant and Nicole Kidman

IT may look as if Hugh Grant and Nicole Kidman are suddenly an item, or perhaps have signed up to make a Four Weddings-style romcom.

But while the pair held hands and embraced, they were actually filming a dark drama for US TV. In The Undoing, they play a married couple. Miss Kidman, 51, is therapist Grace Sachs while Grant, 58, is her husband Jonathan, who goes missing as she is about to publish her first book.

Grant's role in the six-part HBO series follows his success last year playing Jeremy Thorpe in the acclaimed BBC drama A Very English Scandal.

Accused was jealous of love rival he allegedly murdered, court hears

By **Annie Butterworth**

A WOMAN on trial for murdering an oil worker told police her co-accused was 'jealous' of her relationship with him, a court has heard.

Tasmin Glass said Steven Dickie was unhappy that she was still in contact with Steven Donaldson.

Glass, 20, Dickie, 24, and Callum Davidson, 23, are on trial at the High Court in Edinburgh charged with murdering Mr Donaldson between June 6 and 7 last year.

The 27-year-old's body and burned-out BMW were found around 5am on June 7 at Loch of Kinnordy Nature Reserve near Kirriemuir, Angus.

The trial yesterday heard that Glass claimed Dickie, with whom she had allegedly been in a relationship, believed she had blocked calls and texts from Mr Donaldson's number on her mobile phone.

Killed: Mr Donaldson

But Detective Constable Nicola Annan, 48, told the court Glass had said that, on the night before Mr Donaldson's death, she had received a number of calls from him while she was driving in a car with Davidson. Glass said she was concerned at how Dickie would react, saying: 'Steven Dickie is protective of me and jealous.

'I knew if he saw his (Mr Donaldson's) number he would have gone mental.'

She told detectives she and Mr Donaldson were in a relationship between June 2017 and April last year. The trial earlier heard that at the time of Mr Donaldson's death Glass was pregnant with his child.

'He would have gone mental'

She said on the night he died he had repeatedly phoned her and she arranged to meet him at the Peter Pan Play Park in Kirriemuir. She said he failed to turn up and she went home.

Glass told officers she owed Mr Donaldson £1,000 and he wanted her to repay it.

The court also heard details of a phone call Davidson allegedly made while in Glass's car. She said: 'I heard Callum say "there's a boy coming through from Arbroath. We are going to give him a hiding".'

During the interview she told police she was expecting Mr Donaldson's baby but planned on terminating it and claimed she and Dickie were friends.

Sergeant Scott McGeachin, 46, earlier told the court when Davidson was detained and told it was on suspicion of murder he replied: 'I think you's are far-fetched with this.'

Sergeant McGeachin also said that in a statement Dickie gave he claimed he and Glass were in a relationship.

Dickie and Davidson also face charges of assault and threatening behaviour. All three have pleaded not guilty to all charges. The trial continues.

PAUL THOMAS IS AWAY

Ephraim Hardcastle

SYMPATHISING with President Macron over the Notre Dame conflagration, Prince Charles refers to the 1992 Windsor Castle fire. Was this wise? Macron pledges to fund the cathedral reconstruction just as John Major promised the British taxpayer would pay for the £37million restoration of Windsor. There was a public outcry and Major back-tracked on paying for all the work. The Queen had to find £2million and was obliged to open Buckingham Palace to cover the shortfall, forgetting perhaps that the public owned the building already.

EMMA Corrin's casting as Princess Diana in The Crown has caught the attention of Clarence House. Until now, the royals have ignored the Netflix saga as most of those portrayed are dead, the Queen isn't litigious and Prince Philip doesn't watch it. But Charles is not one to take such things lightly. His lawyers will be watching closely when filming begins. William and Harry will also take an interest. Few matters unite them more than their mother.

THE Queen, 93 on Sunday, celebrated her 21st birthday in Cape Town where a South African jumped on to the running board of her open-top car. He was robustly thumped by a parasol-wielding Queen Mother. After his arrest, he confessed he was trying to give the then Princess Elizabeth a birthday present: ten shillings (50p), his entire life savings.

GRUMPY Jeremy Paxman, 68, in a doctor's waiting room perusing an article about Michelle Williams, 38, pictured, whinges he's never heard of the Hollywood beauty, adding: 'She doesn't do Instagram. Now that, my friends, is truly astonishing. It's enough to make you question your own pulse.' Paxo, you should get out more!

LORD Sugar responds to Jeremy Corbyn's tweet about multinational tax dodgers, asking: 'Did you get your Starbucks on the way to the office and use your Apple phone which you may have bought from Amazon? POT-KETTLE.' Imagine being on a desert island with either of them!

AUSTRALIAN Barry Humphries' mocking of the transgender movement prompts the earnest ladies of Melbourne to replace the Barry Award in his name with the International Comedy Festival Award. And what did Barry say to offend? 'How many different kinds of lavatory can you have?'

STILL slightly charred after fleeing the flames in her Belgravia flat, Dame Joan Collins, 85, compares her fate to Notre Dame, tweeting: 'Having just escaped from a fire, I know how terrifying and ghastly it can be.' Thankfully, both historic treasures are still standing.

FANS seeking selfies should approach John Cleese with caution. 'It irritates me so much,' barks the curmudgeon. 'I've sometimes responded by saying, "What? To commemorate the fact that we met four seconds ago?"' Basil Fawlty lives!

Email: john.mcentee@dailymail.co.uk

by Jan Moir

EIGHT years since her first 50 Shades Of Grey bonk-buster was published, E.L. James is back with a new hero and heroine to entertain the millions hooked on her lucrative brand of panting mummy porn.

It is time to say goodbye to handsome sadomasochistic American billionaire Christian Grey and the demure but captivatingly beautiful student Anastasia Steele, his willing accomplice throughout five torrid books and three terrible films.

And it's time to say hello to 50 Shades Of Brit, in the form of handsome, sex-mad millionaire The Honourable Maxim Trevelyan, aka Lord Trevelyan, the 13th Earl of Trevethick, a green-eyed hunk with dimples on his bottom and a winning way with women. ('As you wish, I growl and thrust inside her').

He owns a 30,000 acre Cornish estate and 'a mop of unruly chestnut curls with gold highlights that glint beneath the magnificent chandelier in his hallway.' Not a euphemism, ladies, the author really does mean his lovely apartment in London.

Maxim is the star of The Mister, E.L. James's new novel that takes us from the Chelsea Embankment to Cornwall to Albania and even — gasp — to Brentford, as the good lord pursues his demure but captivatingly beautiful Albanian cleaning lady, Alessia Demachi.

Along the way, James typically leaves no cliché unturned ('I smelled a rat') nor puckered nipple uncovered, although devoted fans of E.L. James's previous oeuvre might be rather disappointed. For while there is lots of sex in Mister, there are no gags, whips and only one single inventive use of a silken scarf.

In this attempt to write a straightforward romance, James' spanking new protagonist is no spanker. In fact, there are no elements of BDSM (that's bondage, discipline, sadism and masochism to those unfamiliar with her genre) at all.

Nor is there a Red Room of Pain, unless you count trying to crunch through the utterly deathly prose which is the author's trademark style, one which makes Dame Barbara Cartland seem like a literary genius. Let me give you a flavour of the horror.

The first time Max meets Alessia he 'notices that her jeans are overwashed and her eyes are large and dark, like a startled doe'.

Meanwhile, she is so shocked by his handsomeness that 'she clutches the handle of the broom to keep herself upright'.

'I am cleaner, Mister,' she says, while he thinks 'for a woman dressed in a nylon housecoat, she is hot'. Throughout the 30-odd chapters, the story switches from her perspective to his.

As Alessia gets out her Windolene to clean the mirrors and drag Henry the Hoover around his penthouse, she admires Max's 'vivid green eyes, eyes the colour of the still, deep waters of the Drin on a summer's day'.

Meanwhile, Maxim thinks she looks like 'an angel, possibly the Virgin Mary or a nun in blue'.

She is a secret piano prodigy and chess mistress and goes around crying 'Zot!' a lot. He has already written a song for her and goes around crying 'f**k a duck' a lot.

Is there much more of this to go? Oh God, only the 500 pages. Yet like Dame Agatha Christie, E.L. James is smart enough to give her readers what they want. With Christie it was a murder on the first page, plus a cavalcade of fruity suspects.

With James, she returns once more to the perennial allure of a rich and powerful man falling for a beautiful but poor woman.

For underneath the bondage of Fifty Shades lurked a very conventional romantic narrative.

ANASTASIA was a strong and self-contained young woman, but one who still had inner doubts about herself and her attractiveness. She became a vehicle for the insecurities of millions of women who secretly harbour fantasies of being swept away from their humdrum lives by passion — and a wealthy lover.

In The Mister, the author goes one step further, creating a marvellously preposterous aristocratic hero within her Cinderella in Downton Abbey storyline.

Max may be a millionaire, but he doesn't have a sexual kink like Christian Grey. Bizarrely, we discover early on that his favourite biscuit is a plain chocolate digestive. He plays piano and guitar, composes scraps of music that express the void within his soul. He's also a DJ and a photographer who is also in demand as a hot model. Of course he is.

Slender but curvaceous Alessia quickly becomes obsessed with his eyes, variously described as looking like the River Drin (see above), with 'irises a darker green around the edge like a fir, while towards the dilating pupil they are warmer, like a fern in spring'.

They are also like a forest in spring and malachite, gottit?

The Mister seethes with hints that the much mocked authoress wants to be taken seriously, as she plays with underlying themes of economic inequality and the plight of undocumented workers trafficked in from eastern Europe.

Fair enough, but the tone is terrible. When Alessia wakes screaming in the night because of sex-trafficked memories, Max tells her: 'The next time you scream, I'll be right there.' He then thinks to himself: 'Of course, I'd like to make her scream in a different way.'

What a creep.

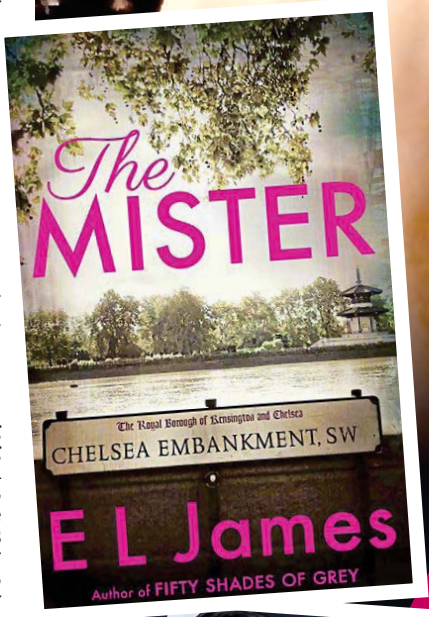
The worst bit? To make up for the lack of kink, E.L. James seems to have decided to use food as a handy conduit for arousal and I really wish she hadn't. By the time we get to chapter 15 Maxim and Alessia are having feasts before they tumble into bed together. First of all it is fish pie and beer in the pub, the following evening it is a pre-sex meal of beef and prune stew before some foreplay with the pudding afterwards.

Let me say one thing, I'll never eat banoffee pie again. Then it's pulled pork with a pomegranate jus and worst of all, an Albanian dish of rice and lamb with a baked yoghurt crust, ugh.

Purists and snobs — like me! — may mock James' writing style, but one can only admire her success.

Her initial erotic trilogy sold more than 150 million copies worldwide and was translated into over 50 languages. Even her most devoted

Bonkbuster hits: Fifty Shades stars Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan



Latest chapter: E.L. James and her new book, The Mister

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YOUR QUICK ROMP THROUGH THE PLOT

HI, I'M Maxim. My big brother died, did he commit suicide? Who knows, we never return to this theme again.
I inherit the title Lord Trevelyan, but I remain humble. 'Blake,' I tell my butler, 'just call me sir.' I like sex but there are rules. 'Not in front of the staff,' says mater. Hang on, who is that beauty polishing my piano? I can see her pink pants through her nasty nylon pinnie. What a babe. I write a song for her.
'Mister, I clean?' she says. In the kitchen, I notice she irons my shirts with sensuous grace and long easy strokes. Excuse me I must go and take a shower. (Hi, I am Alessia. What does he see in me? I am only his cleaner.)
Some bad guys try to kidnap her, I take her to Cornwall where she has never seen the sea. Her giggle is breathy, and it speaks directly to my groin. The shield from my family coat of arms perfectly mimics the Albanian flag — what are the chances?
She has nothing and I have everything. And if I take advantage of her, what would that make me? Never mind, I peel off her Spongebob Squarepants pyjama bottoms and an old Arsenal t-shirt someone gave her because she has no clothes of her own. She is a 24-year-old virgin, so I must be gentle. How can I explain this without sounding pervy? Slowly I let her adjust to my intrusion. Will that do?
(Hi Alessia here. How could I be so wanton? But Mister Maxim has woken a monster within me.)
We make love a lot and gorge on ghastly meals. Bad men come. I beat them up.
We make love. Again. Back in London Alessia and I declare our love but she gets kidnapped by a man her father promised her hand to in marriage. Ye gods. I fly to her parents' house in Kukes, Albania, for a showdown. Hope nobody makes me eat that lamby rice thing again. Betrothed guy tries to shoot me, but love conquers all. Alessia says she is pregnant, but she is not really. We have sex together again.
I wouldn't mind some kids, I tell her. She teases my lips with her tongue. Put down that duster, love, I tell her. You've pulled. I'm the only Mr Muscle you'll be spraying from now on. The end.

Pictures: LMK/GETTY

Her erotic trilogy sold 150 million — now E.L. James is back. Lusting for her latest racy romance? Brace yourself for JAN MOIR's inimitable verdict

Spare me these 50 new shades of steamy cliché

fans would probably admit the books were often clumsily written, teen-style fiction while the films that followed weren't much better, although they grossed more than $1 billion globally.

In scenes filmed in full screen buttockorama, Dakota Johnson starred as Anastasia, while Jamie Dornan did his best as Christian Grey. Their lack of on-screen chemistry didn't help, but fans didn't seem to care, and flocked to the films anyway.

What began as an exercise in escapism on her long, dreary Underground commute into London nine years ago has transformed James, 56, into one of the richest and most influential authors in the world.

She's now said to be worth £114 million — a fortune generated not just by the books and films but the Fifty Shades merchandise, ranging from lingerie and jewellery to whips and bottles of wine, which the author herself personally helped to design.

Not bad for a housewife, whose Northern Irish screenwriter husband Niall Leonard proofreads all her books and says he couldn't be further removed from his wife's fantasy creation. The couple have two grown-up sons, now 22 and 24, whom James also insists aren't remotely embarrassed by their mother's torrid imagination.

Why would they be, one might wonder, when it has netted them a £2.7 million home in Ealing, a £1.1 million coastal home in Cornwall and a £5.5 million home in LA.

Cars have also been an indulgence — James was the first person in the UK to buy a £60,000 red Tesla Model S electric sports car and also drives a blue 'Chelsea tractor' complete with a number plate ending 'SXY'.

BUT, despite the baubles of success, James remains down to earth, equally at home with her new life in LA as she is her old life in West London.

She continues to frequent her favourite pub in Ealing, where she goes to play Scrabble or simply for Sunday lunch with her family.

And while she has become a fan of regular manicures and pedicures, she still has her hair blow-dried in Acton, does her own supermarket shopping and walks her two Westies, Max and Mini.

She has also made vast donations to charity — according to her company records, in the region of £1.2 million to date.

Now with the publication of The Mister, E.L. James is back doing what she loves most, writing torrents of boiling, erotic fiction in a world where eyes are always flashing, rolling, sparkling, flittering with lust or throbbing with passion.

Has she given up on Christian Grey for ever? Note that Trevelyan was Christian's middle name. So perhaps not.

Now Corbyn fails to sack MP who lied about Zionism slur

By **Daniel Martin**
Policy Editor

LABOUR'S anti-Semitism crisis plumbed new depths last night after Jeremy Corbyn refused to sack one of his biggest allies for launching an anti-Zionist tirade.

Richard Burgon, the shadow justice secretary, strenuously denied making the offensive comment that 'Zionism is an enemy of peace' after it was exposed by the Mail in 2016.

But yesterday he was forced to admit he had done so after video footage emerged of him saying those very words. Nevertheless, he failed to apologise – merely saying he 'regretted' using the phrase.

Jewish groups demanded he be removed from his shadow cabinet position and said it proved Labour's claims to be clamping down on anti-Semitism were a sham.

Zionism is the belief that Jews have the same right to a national homeland as other nations. The term is often used as an insult by those who deny that Israel has a right to exist.

Mr Burgon, who would become Lord Chancellor if Labour were to win power, is one of Mr Corbyn's key allies. Yesterday, a 2014 video emerged of him telling an audience: 'The enemy of the Palestinian people is not the Jewish people. The enemy of the Palestinian people are Zionists and Zionism is the enemy of peace and the enemy of the Palestinian people.' However, when asked about a Mail report in 2016 that he had used these words, Mr Burgon denied he had done so.

He told the BBC's Daily Politics show he 'didn't say that' and added: 'That's not my view.'

He said: 'I didn't make those comments... I was asked when I was meant to have made those comments – no one could tell me... it's not my view.' He added that he believed 'on occasions, like the governments of other countries, Israel has been an enemy of peace'.

Last night Euan Philipps, spokesman for Labour Against Anti-Semitism, called for Mr Burgon to be sacked over the 'damning' footage. He said 93 per cent of British Jews 'identify as Zionists' and that Mr Burgon's comments 'appear to be a clear incitement of hostility towards them'.

He added: 'We demand Jeremy Corbyn take immediate action and withdraw the whip from Mr Burgon, while there should be no question of him remaining in the shadow cabinet... This is a serious matter and someone allegedly making these racially inflammatory comments should have no place in any mainstream political party. This needs to be dealt with and not just swept under the carpet.'

Mike Katz, of the Jewish Labour Movement, said: 'You can't play at being a Lord Chancellor-in-waiting whilst making dog whistle attacks on British Jews and their right, through Zionism, for national self-determination.' Last night Mr Burgon said: 'When it was put to me in August 2016 that I had made these remarks I did not recall doing so and therefore asked for the full quotes to be provided to me, and asked when and where I had said it.

'I received no reply... It is now clear that I did and I regret doing so.' He added that when he made the remarks in 2014 he failed to 'distinguish between those seeking a peaceful solution... and those, such as the current Israeli government, which is undermining efforts towards peace'.

He said: 'The simplistic language used does not reflect how I now think about this complex issue and I would not use it again today.'

In 2016 the Mail also reported that Sami Ramadani – described by Mr Corbyn as a 'great friend' – wrote online: 'IS are not the only brutal terrorists rampaging & killing people in the Middle East.'

■ Labour MP Margaret Hodge has been branded a 'disgraceful Zionist spy' by Corbyn supporters after leaking a recording of him admitting anti-Semitism cases had been 'ignored'.

Comment – Page 18

Denials: Richard Burgon

WHAT ALLY CLAIMED ON BBC...

'I didn't make those comments ... I was asked when I was meant to have made those comments – no one could tell me... it's not my view.'

... AND WHAT HE SAID ON VIDEO

'The enemy of Palestinians is not the Jewish people. The enemy... are Zionists, and Zionism is the enemy of peace...'

Storm as Corbyn's 'great pals' compare Israel to IS terrorists

The Mail, August 8, 2016

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Councillor who dressed as Hitler for fundraiser

By **Liz Hull**

PHOTOGRAPHS of a Labour councillor dressed as Adolf Hitler at a fancy dress fundraiser have sparked an investigation by the party.

The pictures of Seve Gomez-Aspron, a member of St Helens Council, Merseyside, show him dressed in a German Army uniform with a swastika and wearing a fake moustache.

They were taken at a fancy dress fundraising dinner in aid of Claire House Hospice, which supports seriously and terminally ill children, in 2009 – around three years before he was elected. The Labour Party confirmed a formal inquiry has been launched.

Mr Gomez-Aspron, 33, who represents the Newton-le-Willows ward, admitted that his outfit – apparently inspired by Mel Brooks's satirical comedy film The Producers – was a 'clumsy decision'. He told the Liverpool Echo the photo was taken in his early twenties, before he was a Labour Party member or councillor. He added: 'I have matured and learnt a lot since then, and it goes without saying that I would not do this now. I know how this could be seen as insensitive and how it could cause hurt and offence. That was not at all my intention and I sincerely apologise.

Offensive: Councillor Seve Gomez-Aspron at the party

'I have part-Jewish ancestry and I recently visited Israel to commemorate those killed in the Holocaust and the war.'

Labour said it was unable to comment on individual cases due to confidentiality and data protection issues. It is not the first time Mr Gomez-Aspron has been the subject of controversy.

Earlier this month, Merseyside Police confirmed they had received a complaint about a tweet he posted referring to the 'Aryan race'. Officers concluded no offence had been committed. In December 2017, Mr Gomez-Aspron was also accused of being 'rude, arrogant and childish' to residents and insinuating they were 'half-wits' on Facebook.

He was hauled before the council's standards committee and censured after being found in breach of the local authority's code of conduct.

Glenfiddich loses trademark battle with Indian rival

Similarities 'will not cause confusion'

By **Stuart MacDonald**

THE famous stag logo has adorned its whisky bottles since it began running from the stills more than 130 years ago.

But now the maker of Glenfiddich has lost a legal battle against an Indian firm it accused of copying its brand.

Mumbai businessman Vivek Anasane wants to expand his drinks firm into the UK with a Scotch whisky named Glenfield.

Glenfiddich owner William Grant & Sons tried to block his attempts to trademark the whisky, saying it uses the same green and gold colours and stag on its packaging.

Its lawyers said the application overlapped with its registered trademark, adding that the similarity between the names could lead people to confuse the two products.

'An allusion to Scotland'

Glenfiddich bosses claimed that Glenfield could benefit from this confusion and wanted the application to be blocked.

But the UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO), which rules on trademark disputes, found in Glenfield's favour, saying consumers were unlikely to confuse the two whiskies.

In a written ruling, trademark hearing officer Mark Bryant said: 'Other than the common occurrence of glen, meaning "a narrow valley, especially in Scotland or Ireland", the respective marks have no conceptual similarity.'

Mr Bryant added that the average shopper would realise that the use of the word 'glen' was 'an allusion to Scotland' and said that this was unlikely to make people think there was any connection between the two brands.

He also said that while both labels featured stags, the fact that Glenfiddich shows one animal and Glenfield shows two was 'unlikely to go unnoticed'.

Mr Bryant stated that while the colours of both labels were similar, 'the differences outweigh the similarities and the applicant's mark will do no more than bring the opponent's mark fleetingly to mind. Therefore, there is insufficient similarity for a misrepresentation to occur'.

In evidence to the IPO hearing, Coralie Vial, global brand manager for William Grant & Sons, said the Glenfiddich trademark brand had been in existence since 1960 and had been using green and gold colours for many years. Glenfiddich has been produced in Dufftown, Banffshire, since 1886.

Mr Anasane, 41, said his company, established in 2017, now wishes to start trading in the UK.

He claimed no one could claim the right to the word 'glen' because it describes 'a narrow valley'.

In February, the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) won a long-running legal case to stop a German distillery calling their single malt Glen Buchenbach.

It is made by the Waldhorn distillery in Berglen, near Stuttgart, and states it is German on its label. But the SWA successfully argued the product could confuse consumers and 'mislead them as to the true origin of the whisky'.

Spot the difference: The labels use the same colour scheme

Local Hero villagers in bid to block phone mast

By **Alan Shields**

A ROW over a phone mast has engulfed the village immortalised in the 1980s cult classic film Local Hero.

The whitewashed harbourside houses in Pennan, Aberdeenshire, look likely to get the new mast to increase phone coverage in the area.

But residents oppose the plan, saying it will spoil the village's rural charm, and councillors have deferred a decision on the 26ft mast for further details.

Local community council chairman Bill Pitt wants the mast erected elsewhere. He said: 'This is a conservation village. We have phone coverage already. Why do we need a mast right in the village?

'This is a place people come to relax. People like to get away from mobile signals, and enjoy things outside of that.'

Pennan's red telephone box on the harbourside was made famous by Bill Forsyth's 1983 movie about the David and Goliath struggle between a US petrochemical giant and the residents of a sleepy village.

In the end the Americans are won over by the beauty and pace of life in the coastal community, and plans for a refinery are scrapped.

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After Chanel's bonkers 'saddle bags', the MY OTHER TWO MORE

Pictures: CORNEL CRISTIAN PETRUS/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK/LEZLI + ROSE

Glam: The Chanel side-pack

EVERYONE knows a woman's bag is much more than a convenient place to store 'stuff' when going from A to B.

It's body armour, a fashion statement, a comforter, your personal assistant and best friend, all in one.

But while over the past decade, one It bag was all anyone wanted, there's now a new way to show off: carrying multiple bags. It's no wonder Chanel has just brought out its new double bags, or 'side-packs'. Costing from £3,260 to £6,800, they are worn with one on each hip, like a horse's saddle bags.

It's a look Samantha Cameron has sported for years — she's often seen with a bevy of stylish bags on her arms.

Of course, there's practical reasoning behind this seemingly showy behaviour. These days, many of us busy women leave home early and get back late, so we need to take everything we need for the day with us.

Rather than carrying one backbreaking tote, it makes sense to arrange things into various bags, taking you from the gym, to the office, to post-work drinks and dinner.

It also keeps us in balance, as most of us favour one side — which can lead to curvature of the spine or a muscle imbalance along the neck and shoulders.

But, armed with multiple bags, just what do you keep in them? **ALICE SMELLIE** spoke to four women who wouldn't dream of carrying fewer than three bags, and got them to spill all...

... AND HERE'S WHAT THEY'RE CARTING AROUND

It's my £1.5k filing system

NIAMH BARKER, 53, a mother of six and CEO of The Travelwrap Company, is married to Andy Barker, 55, a consultant psychiatrist. They live in the New Forest.

THE night before a meeting, I divide all I need into little bags then spread them between three or four larger ones. It's like preparing for open-heart surgery — thinking the steps through. My bags are my filing system, as I travel the world. Fully loaded, they weigh nearly 5kg, but I'm used to it now.

Bag one is a £100 Orla Kiely laptop bag for my computer, iPad and notebook.

My 'important' bag is for items that mean a lot to me (and are necessary).

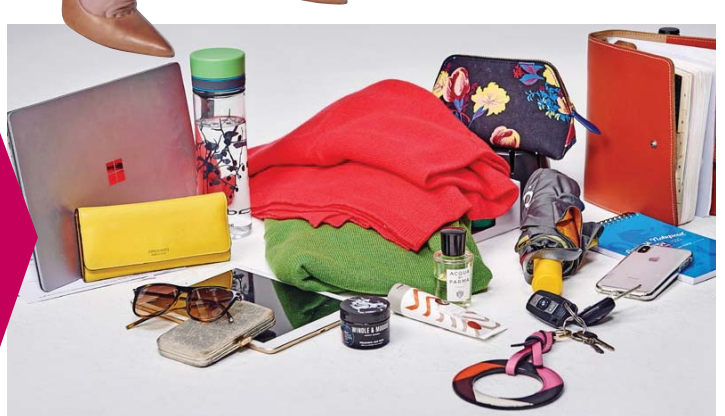
This includes my Diane von Furstenberg keyring, my wallet phone, a tube of my favourite Kit Kemp handcream, and my Anya Hindmarch cardholder, given to me by the designer herself. The bag is a Tory Burch, a Diane von Furstenberg, or a blue Coach shoulder bag.

A third bag may hold a cashmere wrap or cardigan in case it gets cold, and an umbrella.

Sometimes there's a fourth bag, into which I decant items before checking the others into a cloakroom. This allows me to look like I'm carrying only the basics.

It's a way of taking a piece of home wherever I go, so I feel settled. On trains, I swathe myself in my cashmere. It smells of my house.

As I shop on eBay or at discounted designer outlets, the bags likely only cost about £1,500 in total. I don't mind if they are last season. My husband laughs at me. But what was once my dirty little secret is now high fashion.



Weather-ready: A wrap, sunglasses and a brolly, just in case

A stuffed bag is so unstylish!

MEG RANDELL, 29, is head of fashion at Chiswick Auctions and lives in Hammersmith, West London, with her boyfriend, an art expert.

I SPEND a lot of my time sourcing and authenticating vintage designer items for auction. On the whole, this is all London-based, with the odd foray into the home counties. Nonetheless, I carry three bags for the quick Tube ride into work every morning.

There's my lovely Gucci bamboo backpack, where I keep the basics: iPhone, Kindle and keys. Next is my green Louis Vuitton handbag for items I may need, such as a cardigan, scarf, inhaler, hair brush and gloves.

Finally, I always take either my beloved Chanel shopping tote or a Louis Vuitton clutch. I often attend evening events and don't want to go with a rucksack — even if it is Gucci.

If I go to the theatre or a drinks party, I can check my basics into the cloakroom, and carry my lipstick and iPhone in my clutch.

In total, the bags probably cost £1,000 and weigh about 3kg when full. They are my most treasured possessions — I have about six designer ones.

They may be expensive, but they were all second-hand. They will keep their value, so if I want to sell any of them I will get my money back and, in some cases, I will even make a profit.

I may wear jeans and shirts a great deal, but I carry Chanel and Gucci on one shoulder, and Louis Vuitton on the other, showing I can be comfortable and glamorous at the same time. The three-handbag trend is great — there's nothing less stylish than an overflowing bag.

Jam-packed: Trainers, hand cream, a banana, a fan and a diary

women with so much clobber they've gone even further

HANDBAG IS... HANDBAGS!

They cost £5,500 ... and weigh 5kg

NATASHA BARTLETT-TWIVEY, 42, is married to Jonathan, 47, a businessman. They live in Buckinghamshire with their daughters, aged four and two. She owns luxury fake flower florists Ferris Heart Sloane.

NOBODY would ever know that my daily £5,500 worth of handbags contain things such as pliers and twine for my job as a fake flower florist.

Typically, I carry a Lucy Houle holdall to put my Chanel or Bottega Veneta handbag in — mainly to protect the leather so that it always looks absolutely immaculate.

Then I have a Ralph Lauren backpack to pop my laptop and smart shoes in because they are lumpy and heavy. I live in a village outside London, so I transform my look when I arrive at work.

With two little girls, I frequently feel frazzled when I leave home.

But knowing that I have my bags, and the tools for every situation, makes me feel in control — despite having a 5kg-plus weight hanging off my frame.

In a way, my bags are like security blankets.

I've had my large canvas Anya Hindmarch for ten years, but it looks almost as new as my Chanel, which my husband bought for me last Christmas, or my Harriet Sanders, which was a birthday present this year.

I also have a large navy bag and a burgundy leather laptop bag, from new brand Alder, created by a friend of mine.

As well as my four bags, I carry a little case with mascara and face cream, my Anya Hindmarch organiser and purse, and something to add some extra flair to my outfit, such as a scarf by Missoni. I wear a lot of black, so this adds a lovely splash of colour.

Tools of the trade: Pliers, twine, a measuring tape and two pairs of shoes

Four bags saved me in a blizzard

DESIGNER Samantha Fuery, 44, is married, has two children, Poppy, 15, and Freddy, 12, and lives in Somerset.

WHEREVER I'm working, whether it's in the UK or further afield, I know I have all I could possibly need in my handbags.

People may laugh, but last year this went in my favour when I found myself trapped in a snowstorm in Yorkshire overnight, unable to get back to Somerset.

I had four bags containing everything I might need for at least 24 hours: a warm wrap, my laptop, a Neal's Yard Beauty Balm, Jo Malone perfume, snacks and masses of magazines. I was quite happy to hunker down in a station waiting room and wait until the tracks were cleared.

If I'm working, I carry a big tote containing my scarf, toothbrush and laptop; a cross-body bag with my wallet and phone; a clutch in case I have an evening do — into which I'll put a lipstick, comb and compact mirror — and a little shoulder bag in the tote which contains my make-up and perfume.

I like to get up, put everything I need during the day into bags and leave. I can't pop home at lunch if I've forgotten something. No matter what the situation, I have everything to hand.

I use bags from my own company, Heat & Fury, and usually carry around £550 worth, weighing around 4.5kg.

The trend for multiple handbags is now so ubiquitous that I've designed a three-in-one version for the American market. Most women find that one bag isn't enough.

My husband travels a lot for work and we all go with him. We've lived in 17 houses in the past 18 years, so I am quite used to scooping up everything I need and decanting it into a few bags.

As well as the practical element, I also think we express ourselves through our accessories. They can be as flamboyant and colourful as you like, no matter how work-appropriate or low-key your clothes.

Just what a girl needs: Paint swatches, snacks, nail varnish — and more bags

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Champion dog nearly killed by discarded cannabis

By **Alan Shields**

HIS lustrous coat and impeccable canine poise propelled him to glory at Crufts six years ago.

But Reuben the spaniel was left looking 'like a nodding dog toy' and almost died after being poisoned by cannabis.

The 2013 Crufts Best of Breed champion is believed to have ingested the class B drug through waste left behind in woodland by campers.

Owner Anne Menzies, 53, said her beloved pet collapsed in a heap only hours after rooting around in debris left near Loch Dunmore in Pitlochry, Perthshire.

She said two girls had been camping at the beauty spot for five days without proper toilet facilities. Miss Menzies added: 'I have got nothing against people doing what they want to do, but for heaven's sake bury your waste.

'Dog owners are going to get fined for leaving dog waste, so I don't see why people should be able to do their business in the woods without cleaning it up.

'Not all wild campers are like that, but what they did was bang out of order.'

She took nine-year-old Reuben to the vet in Pitlochry as soon as she realised that something was wrong.

As the stricken animal struggled to hold his head upright he reminded her of 'a nodding dog toy' and she feared that he was about to die.

Miss Menzies added: 'He was so out of it that the vet had to hit him to try to wake him up. He collapsed on the floor and the vet had to bring him round. I just thought we were going to lose him.'

Miss Menzies then drove Reuben to the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh, where experts told her he was probably suffering from cannabis poisoning from the campers' waste. She said: 'It was awful to see, he was such a poorly boy, but he's doing OK now, thankfully.

'I'm scared to go into the vet and find out how much it cost.

'This didn't have to happen. If people had taken a little more care then my dog wouldn't have been injured in this way.'

'I just thought we were going to lose him'

Fully recovered: Crufts champion Reuben the spaniel with his owner Anne Menzies

Ruin with a view... the £450,000 fixer-upper

Daily Mail Reporter

IT'S what an estate agent might call a 'fixer upper', but this ruin will set you back £475,000 – and that's before you call in the builders.

To be fair, though, it does come with 400 acres of farmland and spectacular views.

Unish House, believed to have been built around 1602, was once the principal tenant's home on the MacLeod estate on the Isle of Skye, scene of many clan battles between the MacLeods and the MacDonalds.

Its commanding position on the Waternish peninsula looks straight out of Game of Thrones, and location scouts for the TV drama clearly agree – they are said to be eyeing locations on the isle for a series prequel.

What an estate: Unish House

The house offers a spectacular block of pasture and moorland, with about three miles of scenic coastline.

Situated eight miles from the nearest inhabited village, Stein, and 25 miles from Skye's main town of Portree, Unish House is being advertised as a chance to create – subject to planning consent – 'a stunning coastal estate in an area rich with historical associations and which exemplifies the romance conjured up by the Scottish Highlands and Islands'.

The house was B-listed but in 2016 its listing was removed.

Pro-life group sues university bosses over campus ban

By **Graham Grant** and **Alan Shields**

AN anti-abortion group is taking legal action against a Scottish university after being denied affiliation to the students' union.

The University of Aberdeen's students' association has refused to affiliate Aberdeen Life Ethics Society (Ales), whose founder backs peaceful demonstrations outside abortion clinics.

The student body voted to oppose the 'unreasonable display of pro-life material within campus and at [union] events' and supports the right to free terminations and the morning-after pill on the NHS.

Ales lodged court documents last week, accusing the university of discrimination under the Equality Act and the Human Rights Act for refusing to grant it affiliate status.

Without affiliation, a society is not eligible for grants or allowed to use campus facilities or have a presence at freshers' week.

The group first applied for affiliation in April last year but was unsuccessful.

It argued that the union should represent 'the interests and diverse beliefs of nearly 14,500 students [but instead] has adopted a policy which in essence has recast the students' union as a pro-abortion campaigning organisation'.

There was 'an alarming trend of limiting freedom of expression on university campuses', its lawyers added.

Ales founder Alex Mason, 33, a doctoral student in the university's school of divinity, said: 'A vocal section of the student body is Leftist in view on this issue. I think this is a culture zealous for abortion rights.'

'Limiting freedom of expression'

According to Mr Mason, one opponent said at the student union's annual meeting last month that his group had a 'history of rape apologism and misogyny'.

Mr Mason said the main purpose of Ales was to hold on-campus debates about sex-selective abortion and screening for conditions such as Down's syndrome.

The group may also demonstrate near abortion clinics, he added, but insisted that it 'would not hold up pictures of dead babies or yell and scream at women'.

Yesterday, Ales said Mr Mason 'does not have any objections to peaceful prayer vigils or demonstrations in public, including outside abortion clinics', and 'believes that pro-lifers should be able to peacefully exercise that freedom'.

The University of Aberdeen was named in the legal action with the union on the grounds that it is responsible for ensuring the student body acted in line with its policies. Ales is being advised by the Christian Legal Centre.

A University of Aberdeen spokesman said: 'The university is an inclusive community and recognises different beliefs, values and cultures. Student societies and clubs sit with the Aberdeen University Students' Association.'

Aberdeen University Students' Association (AUSA) said it could not comment on the legal action but a spokesman said: 'Following a complaint raised by Ales, AUSA's board of trustees reviewed the matter and Ales were invited to re-apply for affiliation, with the reassurance that the application would be treated in the same way as any other. However, to date no application has been received.'

Last month, Glasgow University students' council agreed to affiliate anti-abortion Glasgow Students for Life after legal threats.

And in October, the University of Strathclyde Students' Association said that it would no longer permit the 'no-platforming' of anti-abortion groups.

The last laugh? Women fill shortlist for comic writing

By **Jennifer Ruby** Senior Showbusiness Correspondent

IT IS a literary award that only three women have ever won, sparking accusations of sexism from a top author.

But now the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for Comic Fiction has produced a female-dominated shortlist, with only two men among six contenders.

Bestselling writer Marian Keyes questioned last year why she had not been shortlisted for the prize.

'Say what you like about me, my books are funny, they are comic. What else do I have to do to qualify?' she complained.

The Wodehouse Prize was not awarded at all in 2018 because none of the books put forward prompted 'unanimous, abundant laughter' from the judges. Now it has returned, and Nina Stibbe has made the shortlist for the third time with her book Reasons to be Cheerful.

Complaint: Marian Keyes

Lissa Evans also returns for a third time with her eighth novel, Old Baggage. They will go up against Kate Davies's first novel for adults, In at the Deep End, and US writer Jen Beagin's Vacuum in the Dark. The two men are Booker Prize winner Roddy Doyle, for Charlie Savage, and New Zealander Paul Ewen, with Plug: Writer in Residence.

■ Famous authors are being told to write their new novels under pseudonyms because of an 'obsession' with debut writers, Joanne Harris has claimed.

Harris, 54, best known for her novel Chocolat, said the publishing industry wanted to sign new authors because they were more likely to win the big literary prizes. She tweeted: 'Increasing numbers of experienced authors (most of them women) are being advised to write under a different name, so their publisher can present them as debut authors.'

Get set

Sharpen your pencils for the launch of our new daily Puzzles & Prizes pullout on Saturday. Here, Countdown queen Carol Vorderman shows how to crack another of our great new games

THE Mail is launching its bigger, brighter Puzzles & Prizes pullout this Saturday, with £3,000 to be won every week.

And to celebrate, each day this week we are putting one of the new number puzzles under the spotlight.

Today, Britain's best-known puzzle addict Carol Vorderman is here to share her tips on how to unlock the secrets to solving Futoshiki, a fascinating test of your logic.

You can find yet more games in the interactive version of the paper, Mail Plus, available for tablets and smartphones at *www.mailsubscriptions.co.uk* — visit the website to find out more.

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Picture: MURRAY SANDERS

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FILL the 25 cells with the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Each number can appear only once in each horizontal row and vertical column.

JARGON BUSTER

SOME cells have an arrow-like symbol beside them. This indicates whether a number is 'greater than' (>) or 'less than' (<) the number in the adjacent cell.

These V-shaped signs are mathematical symbols: 4 is bigger than 3 so '4 > 3'. And 1 is smaller than 5 so '1 < 5'. Some people call them chevrons or angle brackets but I simply call them greater than (>) and less than (<). In Futoshiki, they can point up and down, too.

STEP 1

		>		
		1		^
	>		>	2
	^			
		4	2/3	> 1
			^	
		5	> 3/4	

WE'VE given you the highlighted numbers as a starting point. First big clue: there are two chains of four cells linked by 'greater than' symbols. Take the lower one: the first cell has to be a 5 (because there's already a 4 in that column). And the last cell has to be a 1 (because there's already a 2 in that column). The others are either a 4 or a 3, and a 3 or a 2. If you can follow this reasoning, you'll understand Futoshiki.

STEP 2

		> 2		
		1		^
5	4 >	3 >	1	2
	^			
	5	4	2/3	> 1
			^	
		5	> 3/4	

LOOK at the middle column. We've got 1, 4 and 5. That leaves 2 and 3. The centre cell can't be a 2 (because there's already a 2 in that row). So, 2 at the top, 3 in the middle. The 3 is 'greater than' the cell to its right, which must be a 1. That leaves us with a 5 and a 4 to place in the middle row. The cell to the left of the 3 is not the biggest in the chain, so that must be the 4. Now you can fill in a 5 in not one but two cells.

STEP 3

	3 >	2		
	2	1		^
5	4 >	3 >	1	2
3	^ 5	4	2	> 1
2	1	5	> 3/4	

CHECK OUT the 2 at the top. The number next to it is 'greater than' 2 — but it can't be a 4 or a 5 (because they already appear in that column). So it must be a 3... leaving space for a 2 below it, with the 1 at the bottom. And since we have a 2 in the right-hand column, there must be a 2 bottom-left. The cell above that now has to be a 3, confirming the fourth cell along that row as a 2.

STEP 4

1	3 >	2	5	4
4	2	1	3	^ 5
5	4 >	3 >	1	2
3	^ 5	4	2	> 1
2	1	5	> 4	3

NEARLY there now. In the first column, the 1 can only go in the top-left cell, with the 4 below it. The top-right cell can't be a 5 (look at the 'greater than' symbol) so it must be a 4. The 5 goes below it, another 5 next to the 4 in the top row, and a 3 goes bottom right. All you have to do now is fill in the final 3 and 4 in the fourth column.

AND HERE'S TWO TO GET YOU HOOKED

ANSWERS ON PAGE 35

^			^	
				<
				^
>		>		
^				
	^			
				3

				>
	^		^	
>				<
			^	^
2		>		
>		<		<

CAROL'S TIPS

THERE are no zeroes in Futoshiki. So where you see a 'greater than' sign (>), you know that cell can't contain a 1 ... because 1 isn't greater than anything. Similarly, a cell with a 'less than' sign (<) can't contain a 5, because 5 is the highest number in the grid. If you're muddling up the two signs, think of the 'greater than' symbol as the open mouth of a hungry crocodile. It wants to eat more, so jaws apart means larger... whichever way it is facing. Look out for chains of these symbols. Cells connected by (>) contain a string of numbers that get progressively smaller — but not necessarily in a simple sequence, so they might be 5, 3, 2, 1 missing a 4.

TOMORROW: HOW TO TACKLE TRAIN TRACKS

ON SATURDAY: OUR NEW PUZZLES & PRIZES PULL-OUT

Suicide girl, 12, 'overwhelmed' by social media

'Couldn't cope': Jessica Scatterson

A GIRL of 12 who wrote RIP on her heel before killing herself was emotionally overwhelmed by social media and did not have the 'skills to cope', a coroner said.

An inquest heard that on the night she died, Jessica Scatterson – who claimed she was bullied online – had posted a picture of her foot and a list of reasons why she should kill herself. Friends

By **Liz Hull**

alerted police, and when officers raced to her home and woke her father, he discovered she had taken her own life in her bedroom surrounded by cuddly toys.

A suicide note included the name of Jessica's alleged bullies while abusive messages were later discovered on her iPad.

Alan Moore, senior coroner for Cheshire, said he agreed with comments by Wendy Walsh, an emotional wellbeing co-ordinator at Penketh High School in Warrington, where Jessica was a pupil, who gave evidence about the youngster's social media use. He said: 'She said, "The pressures young people are under are extraordinary. Young people don't have the skills to cope with such overwhelming emotions" – those were her words and I echo that.'

Delivering a verdict of suicide, Mr Moore added: 'It is clear to me that Jessica must have felt emotionally overwhelmed at the time she took her own life.

'The level and the intensity of her activity on social media platforms, particularly in the build-up to her death, cannot have failed to have influenced her thinking, her state of mind and her intentions.'

Jessica's father Christopher, 41, spoke to police from an upstairs window when he was woken at home on April 22, 2017 before officers heard a 'loud scream' from inside.

Sergeant Ross Dryden, of Cheshire police, told the hearing he tried to resuscitate Jessica, who would have turned 13 two days later, until paramedics arrived. She was pronounced dead a short time later.

Police launched an investigation and discovered an incident

'A child taking too much on'

'relating to Jessica being bullied at school' in 2016, which left her with a scratched face and a swollen eye. But it was unclear who had started the fight so no action was taken. Staff admitted there had been some name-calling and fall-outs with friends, but denied it amounted to bullying.

The court heard Jessica had spoken to teachers about her difficult home life. Learning mentor Sarah Baron revealed Jessica had been worried about her father, because he would 'sometimes come home from work, go to his room and cry'. She said: 'Jessica just seemed like a child who was taking too much on.'

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Safety probe following gas leak on rig

SAFETY watchdogs are investigating a gas leak on a North Sea platform.

The incident happened on Chevron's Alba North installation on February 3, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) said.

The platform is 130 miles north-east of Aberdeen.

An HSE spokesman said yesterday: 'We can confirm that an 80kg gas release occurred on Chevron's Alba North installation.

'It was reported to the HSE and we are investigating.'

Chevron confirmed that there were no injuries or evacuations as a result.

April 17, 2019 ON THIS DAY

FROM THE DAILY MAIL ARCHIVE

APRIL 17, 1912

THE first flight across the English Channel by a lady alone, piloting an aeroplane, was made yesterday by Miss Harriet Quimby, an American airwoman. She took off from Dover and landed at Hardelot, near Boulogne. She stated that her trip was splendid in spite of fog.

APRIL 17, 1964

THE Great Train Robbery gang was spilt up last night — to serve terms totalling 307 years. Immediately after the sentences were passed, the 12 men in the dock were paired off. Each pair was carefully chosen to keep the most dangerous thugs apart.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

VICTORIA BECKHAM, 45. The pop star-turned-fashion designer (right) was the only Spice Girl not to audition for the group with a pop song, choosing Mein Herr from the musical Cabaret. She's also the only member not on a reunion tour next month. A qualified dance teacher before becoming famous, she said: 'If it does go wrong, I can always be a tap-dancing teacher.'

JOHN McCRIRICK, 79. The racing pundit calls his long-suffering wife 'The Booby', because he says she is like the South American bird: 'She's stupid, squawks a lot and was easy to catch.' After he was dropped by Channel 4, he sued the channel for ageism, claiming £3 million damages, but lost and had to pay £100,000 in legal fees, with the tribunal concluding his 'self-described bigoted and male chauvinist views were clearly unpalatable to a wider potential audience'.

BORN ON THIS DAY

J.P. MORGAN (1837-1913). Remembered as America's 'greatest banker', he helped to transform business, creating General Electric from an 1889 merger, moved into the first home in the U.S. lit by electricity and even, unsuccessfully, bidding to build a new London Tube line. His fortune upon death was estimated at $118 million ($3 billion, or £2.3 billion in today's money).

VICTOR LOWNES (1928-2017). The U.S. impresario (right) was once Britain's highest-paid executive, as manager of Hugh Hefner's Playboy empire in Europe. Dubbed Victor Disgusting by Private Eye magazine, he boasted of living with six women at a time. At 14, he accidentally shot dead a school friend during a hunting trip.

ON APRIL 17...

IN 1961, the doomed Bay of Pigs invasion was launched when 1,500 Cuban exiles trained by the CIA attempted to overthrow Fidel Castro's regime.

IN 2011, the first episode of TV fantasy epic Game Of Thrones was aired. The final series began on Monday.

WORD WIZARDRY

GUESS THE DEFINITION: Tracklement (1954)

A) A pole slung across a stream to stop cattle passing.
B) The payment of arrears.
C) A savoury condiment served with meat.
Answer below.

PHRASE EXPLAINED

To a T: Meaning exactly, precisely or to perfection; it is likely to involve T being the first letter of tittle, meaning some very small amount, as 'to a tittle' was in use in exactly the same sense for nearly a century before.

QUOTE FOR TODAY

'YOU can't have everything. Where would you put it?'

Steven Wright, U.S. comedian

JOKE OF THE DAY

HOW does a mouse feel after a bath?
Squeaky clean.

Guess The Definition answer: C.

Compiled by ETAN SMALLMAN and ADAM JACOT DE BOINOD

Now they even want to regulate families' 'Good Life' chickens!

By **Rachel Watson**
Deputy Scottish Political Editor

THEY are the latest middle-class accessory, with the promise of fresh eggs tempting families to become 'backyard' chicken keepers.

And with celebrity endorsements from the likes of Oprah Winfrey, Jennifer Aniston and Julia Roberts, it is little wonder coops have been springing up in gardens and allotments across the country.

But the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) has warned that the trend poses a risk to the health of commercial flocks – and could have dire consequences for the poultry industry.

It is urging the Scottish Government to consider a licensing scheme and the introduction of strict regulations.

The intervention has been published in response to a Government consultation on a licensing scheme for the breeding of dogs, cats and rabbits.

'Living in poor welfare conditions'

More than 96 per cent of responses supported further regulation, with the NFUS calling for licensing laws to also include chickens.

In its response, NFUS policy manager Penny Middleton wrote: 'Poultry keeping has become extremely popular in recent years and the number of backyard poultry keepers and breeders had grown accordingly.

'The keeping of poultry and the uncontrolled movements of poultry poses a risk of endemic disease spreading to commercial flocks, and any discovery of notifiable disease within hobby flocks will impact the UK's disease status, affecting trade... affecting movements and impacting heavily on industry.'

Present regulations require only those with more than 50 birds to register their flocks.

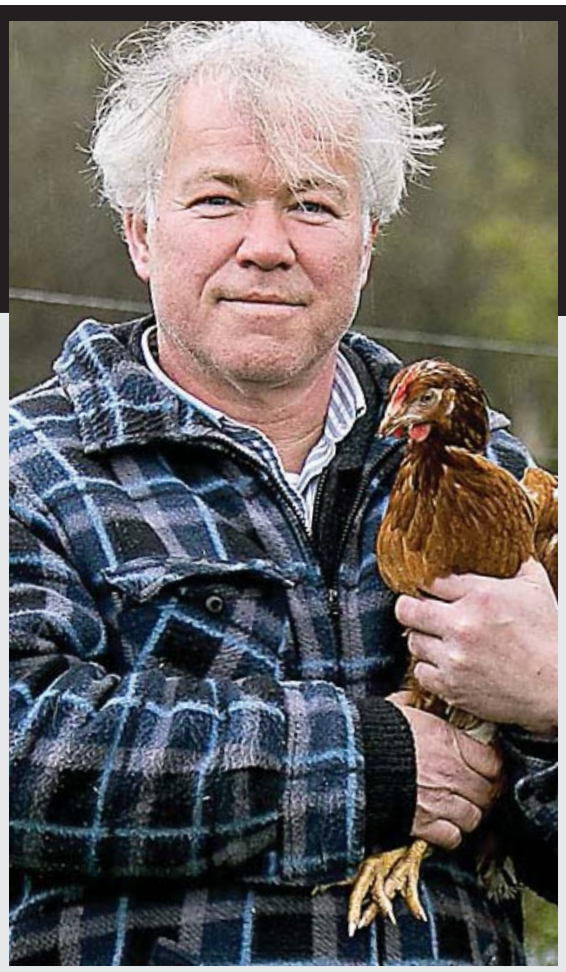
There have been several outbreaks of avian influenza in the UK in recent years. The virus is carried by wild migrating birds and can have a devastating impact on flocks.

In 2016 a 'very mild strain' of bird flu was found at a Fife poultry farm. This led to the culling of 40,000 birds and restrictions on the movement of poultry, carcasses, eggs and poultry manure were put in place.

Miss Middleton warned that many backyard poultry keepers lack the necessary knowledge, with chickens 'living in poor welfare conditions' which can lead to 'poor health and endemic disease'.

She said: 'NFUS would like to see individuals selling poultry licensed in a similar way to breeders and dealers in puppies, with measures in place to ensure birds bred are healthy.'

The Scottish Government said: 'We are working with NFUS and other stakeholders, including animal welfare groups, to develop new Scottish Government guidance on the welfare of laying hens for all keepers.'



Good Life: Nicholas White has around 50 birds

Licences to keep poultry 'seem a bit over the top'

CHICKEN keeper Nicholas White, 54, has around 50 hens in his garden in Shotts, Lanarkshire.

What started as a hobby has become a small business selling birds, coops and equipment.

Mr White, who launched his firm Chickenfeathers.co.uk three years ago, said: 'We haven't had a major outbreak of bird flu or anything like that in Scotland this year so I think bringing in regulations is a bit over the top.

'Unfortunately in this country we tend to surround ourselves with rules and regulations and in this case there isn't any need.

'The vast majority of hybrid hens from hatcheries are vaccinated anyway, and the hens I buy and sell certainly are.

'It's only the minority that are not and they are mostly pure-breds, which are more expensive and kept in smaller numbers, so I don't think it is necessary to bring in regulations for every bird to be vaccinated.'

Women hang on to £500 of old clothes

HOPES of a date at a fancy restaurant or an invitation to a posh wedding... most women have a range of excuses to keep old clothes in the wardrobe.

And research has put a value on them – with British women reckoned to have up to £500 worth of unused clothes and outfits gathering dust.

They are holding on to 13 items of so-called 'fashion skeleton' clothes worth an average of £36 each, it reveals.

The actress Jennifer Aniston quipped that 'my girlfriends go shopping in my wardrobe' and the problem also seems to be that old clothes remind many of a specific person, place or experience.

It means £13billion in unwanted clothing is being kept across the country, with 17 per cent of women holding on to unworn clothes for 'sentimental reasons'.

Another 18 per cent hold on to items which no longer fit in the hope they will be able to squeeze back into them.

Eric Gagnaire, of 'preloved' clothing website Patatam, which commissioned the research, said: 'It's amazing to see just how much money British women have sat in their wardrobes, in the form of clothing which they no longer want.'

Of those polled, 92 per cent of women said they would prefer to sell such clothes, rather than simply throwing them away.

FUTOSHIKI SOLUTIONS

4	5	3	1	2
5	3	1	2	4
2	1	4	3	5
3	4	2	5	1
1	2	5	4	3

1	4	5	3	2
4	2	3	5	1
5	3	1	2	4
2	5	4	1	3
3	1	2	4	5

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Another one likes the bust: May unveils Freddie tribute

QUEEN guitarist Brian May has unveiled a striking new bust of Freddie Mercury created by Tom Mackenzie.

The sculpture of the singer, who died in 1991, captures his famous overbite. At least it does convince May.

'Freddie lives', he wrote alongside this snap on social media.

The artwork was created using a mixture of 3-D digital modelling and traditional sculpting skills and will have pride of place at the Queen Studio Experience exhibition in Switzerland.

diary@dailymail.co.uk
Follow me on Twitter
@sebshakespeare

Sebastian SHAK

■ *PRINCESS Diana's friend ballet dancer Wayne Sleep has implored the writers of The Crown to honour her love of dancing in the fourth series. 'Her character should dance because Diana loved to dance,' Wayne, 70, tells me. 'The first thing she'd do when she came round to mine was kick off her heels and walk around with bare feet and learn a couple of jazz moves from me. 'I'd be happy to train the actress [Emma Corrin] playing Diana. The show is a quality programme, it has a great reputation and I'm up for anything that has artistic integrity.'*

Owzat! Mollie is bowled over (again) by her sports star love

PRINCE Harry's one-time flame, pop star Mollie King, is enjoying better luck in love at last.

The former Strictly contestant, 31, had a spring in her step when she strolled hand-in-hand with England cricketer Stuart Broad, 32, in Notting Hill yesterday.

The couple, who were accompanied by her poodle, Alfie, are back together after splitting last August following a five-month relationship, which a friend claimed at the time had 'fizzled out'.

Mollie, who is a petite 5ft 3in, and her 6ft 4in boyfriend were hard to miss as they ambled through the neighbourhood. The Saturdays singer, who sported a beige trench coat, skinny jeans and an olive green top, revealed in 2012 that she'd been on a date with Harry, but he was 'out of her league'.

Happily, it didn't deter her from future passionate pursuits. 'I love being in love,' she said. 'I literally love being in love. I'm so romantic.'

How Archbishop and Joanna Lumley helped Rev duck a fine

THE combined charms of Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Ab Fab star Joanna Lumley helped BBC radio presenter the Reverend Richard Coles avoid a fine when caught with the wrong ticket on a railway journey.

'I was on the platform at Canterbury Railway Station with the Archbishop of Canterbury after a do,' Coles tells me. 'And there on the platform was Joanna Lumley and her husband. A very congenial journey followed, but when we got to St Pancras I discovered I'd lost my return ticket.'

The Communards musician-turned-Anglican priest continues: 'There was a very surly man on the barrier and I said: "Oh, I'm sorry, I've lost my ticket," in my best vicar voice. But no, nothing, he just blocked me and was very unhelpful. Then I said: "But my friends can vouch for me."

'He looked up to see the Archbishop and Joanna Lumley, and suddenly it was: Open Sesame.'

The 'curse' of engulfs staid

DISSOLUTE musician Pete Doherty, ex-fiance of Kate Moss, continues to provoke strong passions.

The BBC has been lambasted for rejecting a bereaved mother's plea to remove him from a Radio 4 programme.

Sheila Blanco, whose son Mark died in suspicious circumstances at a party attended by Doherty in 2006, wrote to the producer of Loose Ends saying it would be 'ethically wrong' to give Doherty a platform to promote his new album unless he was asked about his actions surrounding the death. Her plea fell on deaf ears and Doherty appeared on the show last Saturday.

In reply, the programme's producer, Sukey Firth, told her: 'We understand how distressing the events around the death of Mark Blanco must be to all those who knew and loved him.

'However, no charges have ever been brought against Peter Doherty in connection with the events and, as such, we do not consider it inappropriate for him to appear on Loose Ends as a musical performer, after a successful previous performance a few years ago, and to share

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ESPRE

Saturdays singer: Mollie at TV Awards

■ *ACTOR Tom Hughes, who plays Prince Albert in the TV drama Victoria, says there is one aspect of the role he will miss once he has to hang up his breeches — the costumes. 'When the time comes to stop playing him, it would not be a joy, but neither would it be heartbreaking, because I've always known his story is finite. I will miss wearing his tailor-made clothes, though. They are the most comfortable clothes in the world. High-waisted trousers have got to come back into fashion.' Maybe he should play Simon Cowell next…*

Graham bags £18k 'bargain' on a date with his Beau…

CHIRPY chat-show host Graham Norton splashed out when he attended the Terrence Higgins Trust auction at Christie's in Mayfair this week.

The 56-year-old, who arrived with dapper on-off boyfriend, Hunt Beauchamp (pictured), successfully bid for potter Grayson Perry's Brexit-themed skull entitled 'Restituted British Head'.

Graham was chuffed to get himself a bargain, paying £18,000 — £7,000 less than the guide price. 'If I drink enough, I'm bidding,' he told me before making the purchase.

'I've supported the Terrence Higgins Trust for years. It's a good charity and, sadly, its purpose hasn't gone away.'

Pete Doherty Radio 4 show

new work.' Mark Blanco, 30, was found dying in a street in East London. He passed away in hospital the next day from serious head injuries.

After spending more than £100,000 on a private investigation, Mrs Blanco said CCTV footage suggested foul play, with someone deliberately dropping Mark's body off the first-floor balcony of the block of flats where the party was held.

Apart from Blanco, there were six other people present including Doherty. Despite two police investigations, no one has been charged. A coroner's inquest recorded an open verdict.

Mrs Blanco tells me: 'It is despicable that the BBC choose to promote an individual who has shown a reprehensible lack of humanity with regard to a man's murder.

'What is certain is that he was there that night in December 2006 and knows what happened.The BBC's decision is particularly ironic because the host of Loose Ends, Clive Anderson, is a criminal barrister.

'In a further irony, another BBC programme, Newsnight, investigated Mark's death in 2012 and uncovered important new evidence pointing to foul play.

'The BBC is ignoring its own journalism.'

The BBC declined to comment.

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Money Mail
Editor: VICTORIA BISCHOFF
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What does the banks' U-turn on SCAM REFUNDS really mean for YOU?

By **Amelia Murray**

IN A MILESTONE victory for Money Mail, a major High Street bank has become the first to pledge to reunite innocent fraud victims with their money.

We have long campaigned for banks to compensate people when they are tricked into handing over their savings, and have been ignored — until now.

For TSB this week said cheated customers will always get their cash back — piling pressure on other banks to do the same.

Writing in Money Mail today, TSB executive chairman Richard Meddings admits: 'Fraud refund policies just haven't kept pace with the scammers. You don't have to be frail or foolish to fall victim.'

Scammers dupe us out of about £1 million a day — often by convincing victims they are bank employees, telling them their savings are in danger and must be moved.

In all, £354 million was stolen last year in these scams, known as authorised push-payment frauds. But until now, banks had refused to pay compensation, claiming the victims should have been more careful.

TSB will now only refuse to pay up if someone repeatedly ignores safety advice and is defrauded again and again.

Other major lenders, have signed up to a voluntary code which will require them to refund scam victims from May 28.

Yet funding for cases where neither the bank nor customer is to blame is only guaranteed until the end of the year.

Richard Emery, fraud expert at consultancy 4Keys International, says: 'I am delighted a bank is taking the reimbursement of scam victims seriously. I trust other banks will follow suit. TSB has come forward in advance of the official reimbursement model which other banks could have done. Customers of other banks who fall victim to scams between now and May 28 would have a very good reason to be unhappy if they are not refunded.'

But what does the landmark move mean for you?

What are TSB's terms?

TSB pledges to reimburse all customers who innocently fall victim to scams, with two exceptions. Those who commit the fraud themselves will not be refunded.

Neither will customers who are repeatedly tricked after getting advice from the bank about how to stay safe. This does not apply to vulnerable customers and TSB says the rule is flexible.

For example, it may refuse to refund customers who fall for the same type of scam twice unless they are targeted in different ways.

Do all victims qualify?

TSB's fraud refund guarantee is not retrospective — those who fell victim to scams before April 14 will not be covered.

Scottish Daily Mail
STOP THE BANK SCAMMERS

Victory over bank scammers as TSB to refund all victims

From yesterday's Daily Mail

Will other banks help?

CUSTOMERS of other banks currently have no right to a refund if tricked by a fraudster. Banks typically refuse in these instances on the grounds they authorised the payment or were negligent with their banking details — even if they had no idea they were speaking to criminals.

Banks recorded 84,624 cases of authorised push-payment fraud last year, almost double the number reported in 2017, according to banking trade body UK Finance.

In total, victims lost £354.3 million, a 50pc rise on 2017.

However, RBS, Barclays, Santander, Lloyds Banking Group (which includes Halifax and Bank of Scotland), Nationwide, Metro Bank, and HSBC have all pledged to sign up to the voluntary code.

Which scheme is best?

RICHARD EMERY says TSB seems to cover more situations in which customers can fall victim to scams.

Banks which sign up to the new code can refuse to reimburse customers who ignore scam warnings, whereas TSB may not.

The code also considers whether a customer has tried to protect themselves. The banks will decide this on a case-by-case basis.

Also, as other banks have only agreed funding until the end of 2019, a longer-term solution is needed.

One idea is to pass on a levy to customers. Only Nationwide and Lloyds have pledged to cover the charge themselves.

Mr Emery says banks have known about the code since 2018, and TSB has just acted on it, but with minimum exclusions.

How do I prove fraud?

KEEP hold of any emails and text messages. Print off a version for your records. Keep the fraudsters' account number and sort code in case the bank deletes them.

If you believe you have become a fraud victim, call your bank immediately. Insist on speaking to the fraud team and tell them to contact the receiving bank at once.

Report the crime to Action Fraud, the national cybercrime reporting service. Without a reference number your bank may question why you do not want to alert law enforcement. Action Fraud collects data which allows it to identify trends and criminals.

If your bank decides not to refund you, make an official complaint. If it still refuses, go to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

The Ombudsman has raised the bar on what it considers gross negligence due to ever more sophisticated frauds.

This means if you are tricked into giving away information, such as a passcode used to confirm payments, it will ask the bank to prove you were careless.

fraud@dailymail.co.uk

■ **COMPLAIN online at** *help.financial-ombudsman.org.uk/help*, **call 0800 023 4567, or write to Exchange Tower, Harbour Exchange, London, E14 9SR.**

By **Richard Meddings**
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF TSB

We must hunt down fraudsters like the criminals they are

INNOCENT victims should not pay the cost of fraud.

It's the stories, not the statistics, that hit you; people — normal, law-abiding, money-saving people — who have seen their life-savings wiped out in an instant.

Everyone knows fraud is a growing problem, but nothing prepares you for the devastation it wreaks.

One of the many cases I've come across concerned an elderly couple from Aberdeen who took a call from a fraudster and were conned into thinking there had been a security breach on their internet banking. The crook asked them to transfer their money into a safe account and, just a few hours later, he'd swindled them out of thousands of pounds.

We need a hunting mentality when it comes to tracking down fraudsters. The people behind these crimes are cunning and organised.

Financial fraud needs to be treated like the serious crime it is. Banks have a big role to play and they are doing some great work, but we all need to do more. It's not enough to say that this is a matter for the police to sort out.

That's why TSB has set up a partnership with the Met Police — and is working with other local forces across the UK — to bring greater support and resources to this issue. Education is critical, so we're investing in fraud awareness programmes, too. But all of this is irrelevant if you've already lost money to fraud.

Increasingly over the past year we've been repaying money when customers have made honest mistakes. But what we need now is to go one step further: we need a clear policy that protects customers and ensures no innocent victims are left out of pocket after being taken in by a scam.

Fraudsters are becoming more and more sophisticated and are always devising new ways to attack customers. So, while we continue to invest in fraud-detection measures, these are not enough on their own.

Fraud refund policies just haven't kept pace with the scammers. You don't have to be frail or foolish to fall victim. All too often, customers must fight to be refunded and are treated unsympathetically.

So, for all these reasons, TSB has become the first bank to launch a guarantee that any innocent customer who falls victim to transactional bank fraud going forward will be reimbursed. We are incredibly proud of this commitment.

WHAT TO WRITE TO GET YOUR CASH BACK SEE PAGE 45

Thanks to cheap tariffs and simpler switching, smaller energy firms are taking on the Big Six. But as complaints soar and some new suppliers collapse...

Are the energy minnows out of their depth?

By **Samantha Partington**

MILLIONS of energy customers who switched to start-up firms to shield themselves from costly bills are now paying the price for their leap of faith.

Small suppliers are crashing out of the market at an alarming rate, with 11 firms going bust since the start of 2018.

Exclusive industry analysis reveals that nine of these firms together owed customers close to £113 million when they collapsed, £26 million of which belonged to customers who had already switched to a new supplier.

Yet despite promises that their cash was protected and would be refunded by their new provider, customers are still waiting for refunds months later.

Meanwhile, Money Mail has been bombarded with tales of appalling service from other small suppliers still in business.

Today, after handing a dossier of dozens of reader complaints to industry watchdog Ofgem, we can reveal the scale of financial havoc and emotional distress caused by decades of loose regulation of the energy market:

- COMPLAINTS to the Energy Ombudsman are soaring, with small suppliers now accounting for a quarter of all gripes about firms.
- FIRMS on the brink of collapse are clinging on to customers' credit balances and ignoring requests for refunds.
- EXPERTS predict between five and ten more suppliers will cease trading this year.
- CUSTOMERS are still waiting to get their money back six months after their energy firm went bust.
- SUPPLIERS are sending out nonsensical bills and using heavy-handed debt collecting tactics.
- DIRE customer service is driving customers back to the Big Six suppliers and putting people off switching.

WHY ARE MANY SMALL SUPPLIERS GOING BUST?

A QUARTER of all households now get their gas and electricity from a small or medium-sized energy company, many of them enticed by a flood of cheap deals on comparison websites that could be hundreds of pounds cheaper than those offered by the Big Six suppliers.

Even today, the 20 cheapest deals available are all with little-known names such as Outfox The Market, Utility Point, Lumo Energy, Powershop and Avro Energy.

Despite the loss of 11 suppliers, there are still more than 60 providers to choose from.

But Mark Todd, co-founder of switching service Energyhelpline, says: 'The rising cost of wholesale gas and electricity, the ease with which suppliers were able to get licences and intense competition will cause between five and ten more suppliers to go bust this year.'

In the wake of increasing chaos in the energy sector, Ofgem last week announced a shake up to its rules for start-up suppliers.

From June, new energy suppliers entering the market will have to pass tougher checks before they are granted a licence.

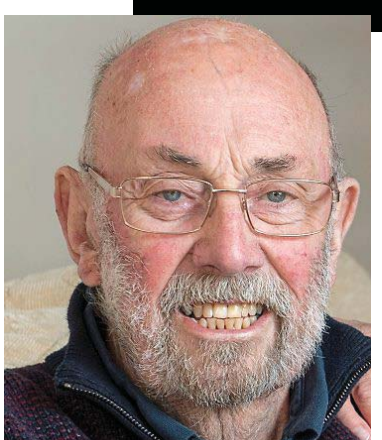
Incredibly, new entrants can buy a so-called 'supplier in a box' package from an IT provider — giving them all the tools they need to begin supplying energy, including a licence.

Acting like middle men, the firms sign up customers and buy the gas and electricity they need from the wholesale markets.

When the price of wholesale gas and electricity rose sharply last year, it hit some firms hard.

Some small suppliers buy power on a short-term basis, rather than buying it years in advance. If prices rise suddenly, but firms have offered their customers low, fixed tariffs for two years, they may struggle to make enough money to pay for power and go bust.

According to analysis of collapsed suppliers by one industry insider, one tell-tale sign a provider is in trouble is increased complaints about large credit balances building up on customer accounts, and long delays in refunding the cash.

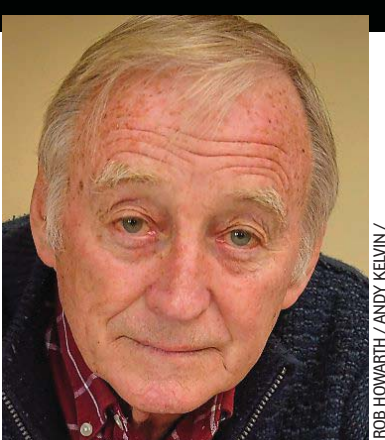


£400 taken from account

Peter Coombes: Angry call

Six months for a refund

Patricia Low: Owed £147



£460 credit vanished

Geoffrey Dryland: So upset

Pictures: BNPS / ROB HOWARTH / ANDY KELVIN /

THREATENING DEBT LETTERS

PATRICIA LOW, 79, from Suffolk, has been waiting for a £147 refund since October.

Patricia used to be a customer of Extra Energy before she switched to Green Network Energy for a new deal. She received her final bill stating she was in credit.

When the money did not turn up, she tried to call the company, but was unable to get through. The company had gone bust.

In December, Scottish Power took over Extra Energy's 108,000 domestic customers and promised to refund any credit balances, but Patricia is still waiting.

The retired reporter for the Lowestoft Journal says: 'When I saw they owed me money, I thought, "Oh good I can buy Christmas presents with that." But it's April now and I still haven't received anything.'

At the time of Extra Energy's collapse in November, the Energy Ombudsman had received 1,160 complaints about the company over the previous 12 months. It says its caseload is still growing.

Complaints website Resolver says it is also receiving around 50 letters and emails a week about the firm's debt collecting practices, being carried out by administrator PriceWaterhouseCooper (PWC).

Hundreds of former account holders and members of the public who had never been customers feared they had been targeted by fraudsters when they received debt collecting letters from PWC.

Angry recipients wrote to Money Mail explaining they didn't owe any money to the firm.

A PWC spokesman confirmed the letters were genuine. It adds that it is aware of a limited number of instances where people have already paid or dispute the outstanding amount and apologised for the confusion.

Scottish Power says it realises it has taken too long to issue final bills and return customers' credit balances and has apologised.

STILL WAITING FOR £500 BACK

BRIAN and Vivienne Clarke, from Somerset, are still waiting to get £500 back from Economy Energy after it collapsed in January.

Ovo Energy was appointed to take over Economy Energy's 235,000 customers and has promised to refund any credit owed to all affected.

Yet since the Clarkes' account was moved to Ovo, Economy

Mail plus

Play MORE of your favourite puzzles with our amazing app for tablet and smartphone
Go to www.mailsubscriptions.co.uk

SUDOKU

FILL in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9. Solutions tomorrow.

	1	2	5			9		3
				4	3	1		
3	9				2		8	
9				3			5	
1	8					6	7	
		5	1	6				2
2			4	5				
								9
8	7				9		1	

Difficulty rating ★☆☆☆☆

5		6						8
						5		
	3		9		8		7	
	7	9				8	2	
				8			4	
	4		2	7	3		9	
	5							
		3	5	9	6	4		1
8		1	4					3

PRIZE SUDOKU

£250

YOU have the chance to win £250 by completing the Sudoku puzzle above to discover the three shaded squares.
TO ENTER: Text SUDOKU followed by a space, your answer (reading left to right), name and postcode to 65700 (e.g. SUDOKU 123 John Smith W8 5TT). Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. Or call 0901 292 5009 and leave your answer. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

■ **ONE prize of £250 is available each week. The winner will be chosen from all the correct entries received between Monday at 00:01 and Friday at 23:59. Answers change each day at 23:59. General promotions rules apply — see overleaf.**

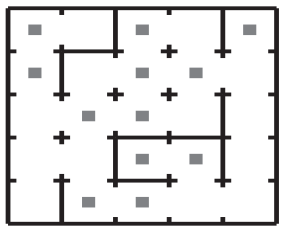
Phone & Text Services Helpline: DMG Media Mobile & TV 08082720808.

HIDATO

55		57					67		72
	53		61	59	64	66		68	
	42	40							
			38						
		44			30				
	47	45	28	29		34	33		
		25							
	22	24							
	18	15	13	11		9			6
		16			1		3	4	

COMPLETE the grid so that all the numbers, 1 to 72, connect consecutively — horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Hint: you don't have to begin with 1 or 72. Working on the mid-numbers might give you a better start. Solution tomorrow.

ISOLATE



3 . 3 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 7

ADD to the walls already drawn to divide the grid's 25 squares into areas. Each area must have a number of squares corresponding to one of the figures below the grid. Each must contain two grey dots. Each + must be linked to at least two walls.
Hints: No area is smaller than two squares. Areas cannot double back on themselves as that would leave a + linked to only one wall. Try to decide which grey dots must be in the same area.
Solution tomorrow.

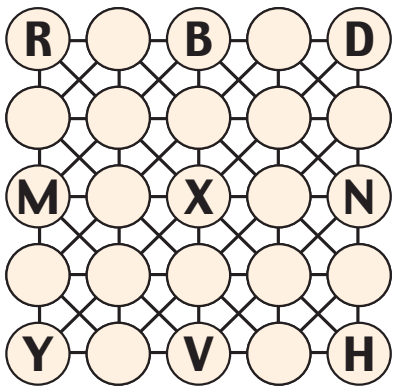
NINE TO FIVE

FIT the scrambled letters of the given word into the grid to form six five-letter words across and down. Solution tomorrow.

	D	F	H	
H				X
S				E
H				S
	R	H	S	

SELECTION

GOGEN

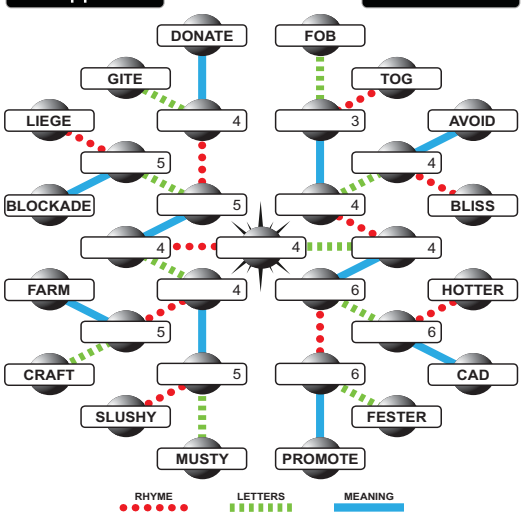


BALM
CLAMP
ENOUGH
EXAM
FLAWED
HUSKY
JET
MISQUOTED
NOW
VICAR

INSERT letters to form the listed words, moving between adjacent cells horizontally, vertically or diagonally in any direction. Insert all the remaining letters of the alphabet (except Z) in the grid so all the listed words are spelt out in this way.
Solution tomorrow.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y

Available on the App Store
Available for Android & Kindle



ZYGOLEX®

FIND the missing words by following the RHYME, MEANING and LETTERS links, where one letter always changes, e.g. a word that rhymes with 'cheek', has the same 'meaning' as 'mountain' and has one letter different from 'pear' would be 'peak'. Full rules at www.zygolex.com.
Solution tomorrow.

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

www.30secondchallenge.com

START on the left with the number given and follow the instructions as you go across. Within the 30-second time limit, beginners have to complete their own challenge, intermediates have to complete their own challenge AND the beginners' challenge, and advanced players have to complete their own challenge AND the intermediate. Answers on Coffee Break back page.

											YOUR ANSWERS
Beginner	58	+5	÷7	x6	DOUBLE IT	÷3	+40	½ OF IT	+10	÷6	
Intermediate	28	+42	TIMES ITSELF	5% OF IT	2/5 OF IT	+6	1/8 OF IT	TIMES ITSELF	+6	11/25 OF IT	
Advanced	89	50% OF IT	x10	LESS 20%	-100	62½% OF IT	PLUS 45%	LESS 12½%	-50	8/17 OF IT	

NAME GAME

HIDDEN in the grid is the name of a former tennis star. Answer the questions, then re-arrange the letters corresponding to your answers to fill in the name. Solution tomorrow.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

						■				

BOX 1: In which year did Virginia Wade (pictured) win the women's singles title at Wimbledon?
1975 (K)
1977 (S)
1979 (C)

BOX 2: What is the approximate length in miles of the River Medway in South East England?
70 (I)
170 (Y)
270 (H)

BOX 3: What is the official language of Sierra Leone?
English (E)
French (O)
Portuguese (P)

BOX 4: Renin is an enzyme secreted by which human organ?
Liver (C)
Kidneys (R)
Heart (H)

BOX 5: What is a weevil?
Beetle (A)
Bird (N)
Frog (U)

BOX 6: Pablo Honey was the 1993 debut album by which band?
Blur (M)
Pulp (L)
Radiohead (T)

BOX 7: In cricket, who won the 2018 County Championship?
Surrey (G)
Yorkshire (W)
Essex (B)

BOX 8: Who won the Best Actor Oscar in 1994 for his role in the film Philadelphia?
Tom Hanks (F)
Michael Douglas (D)
Dustin Hoffman (V)

BOX 9: In which part of the human body is the gastrocnemius muscle?
Arm (J)
Leg (F)
Neck (X)

BOX 10: Thomas Gradgrind and Sissy Jupe are characters from which novel by Charles Dickens?
Hard Times (F)
Little Dorrit (Z)
Oliver Twist (R)

Yesterday's answer:
KYM MARSH
(1K, 2A, 3R, 4M, 5Y, 6H, 7M, 8S).

Picture: GETTY / TONY DUFFY

SUDOKU X

	5				
	6				
	2	3			
2		1			

PUT each of the digits 1-6 once in every row, column, diagonal (highlighted to form an X) and horizontal 3x2 box (ruled). Solution tomorrow.

QUICK QUIZ

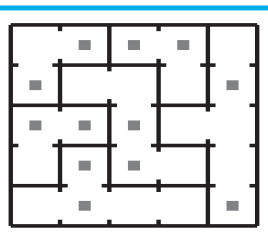
1. What is the first name of Susannah Fielding's character in the comedy series This Time With Alan Partridge?
2. In which country is the town of Darjeeling?
3. Which Oscar-winning English actor has been married to actress Sinead Cusack since 1978?
4. In which decade was BBC television newsreader Matthew Amroliwala born?
5. In job adverts, for what does the T in OTE stand?

ANSWERS ON BACK OF COFFEE BREAK

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLES

FOR yesterday's Sudoku and Sudoku X solutions, see overleaf

V	T	R	Y	B
P	O	D	A	K
X	L	G	N	Q
S	E	I	U	M
H	C	F	W	J



	L	I	D	
C	O	M	E	T
S	C	A	L	D
S	U	G	A	R
	M	E	Y	

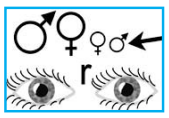
GUACAMOLE

	15	18	19	42	43	
14	12	16	17	20	41	44
13	11	10	21	26	40	45
8	9	22	27	28	25	39
7	3	2	23	24	29	38
4	6	1	31	30	35	37
	5	32	33	34	36	

PITCHERWITS™

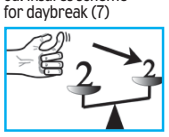
Pit your wits against Pitcherwits — the exciting puzzle where some of the answers are in pictures! The solutions to the visual clues fit into the shaded spaces on the grid. Solution tomorrow.

1a. Shoe — genuine mistake for place of power (6,5)



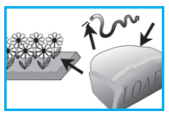
5a. Insures scheme for daybreak (7)

14a. Separate melody ends act in play (7)

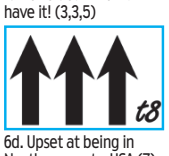


16a. Surface of motel, Gothic style (4,2,5)

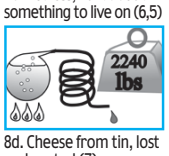
1d. Tone deaf? Don't have it! (3,3,5)



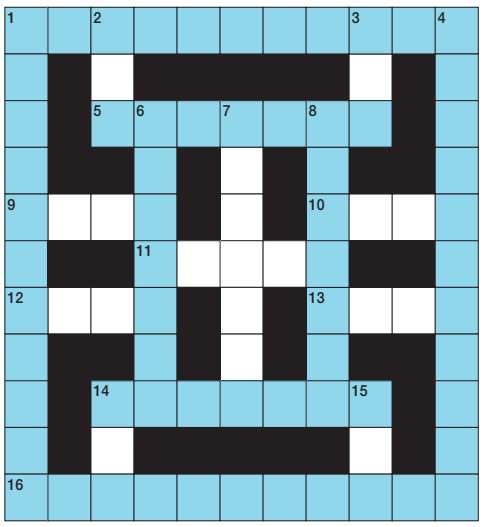
4d. Actress, hurt about something to live on (6,5)



6d. Upset at being in Northern parts, USA (7)



8d. Cheese from tin, lost and grated (7)



ACROSS
1 Picture Clue
5 Picture Clue
9 Musical piece in soup recipe (4)
10 It's a measure of unflinching cutbacks (4)
11 Controlled section for ugly one (5)
12 From Icarus comes a bit of rock (4)
13 Coastal chalk, mined for powder (4)
14 Picture Clue
16 Picture Clue

DOWN
1 Picture Clue
2 Being as how it has some fuel (3)
3 House — at the end of the exercise (3)
4 Picture Clue
6 Picture Clue
7 Unfeeling and cruel, with Dean off notice-board (7)
8 Picture Clue
14 It's crazy to go up and block (3)
15 Little boat — can be gut-wrenching! (3)

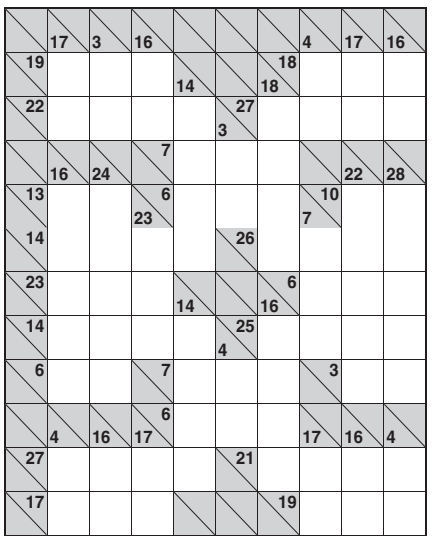
Yesterday's solution **ACROSS:** 1 Fatherlike. 5 Beetroot. 9 Snub. 10 Dame. 11 Exile. 12 Axis. 14 Pram. 15 Kneehole. 18 Bottled out. **DOWN:** 1 Flashback. 2 Hobbles. 3 Lit. 4 Ego. 6 Eat into. 7 Ova. 8 Treatment. 10 Deep end. 13 Ice. 16 Nib. 17 Hat.

PITCHERWITS BOOK OFFER

PITCHERWITS – Vol. 4 by Professor Rebus is published by Octopus Publishing, priced £8.99. Offer price £7.19 (20% discount) until April 30, 2019. Order at www.mailshop.co.uk/books or call 0844 571 0640. P&P is free on orders over £15. Spend £30 on books and get FREE premium delivery.

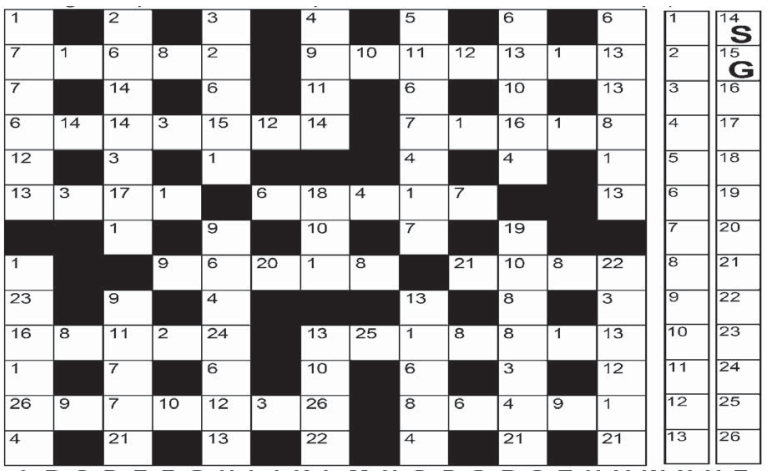
KAKURO

FILL in the blank squares of the grid using only the numbers 1 to 9, without repeating any number in any line of blank squares. The lines must be filled in with numbers which add up to the total in the shaded box at the top or beginning of each line. A number in the bottom half of a shaded box gives a downwards total: in the top half, it's a horizontal total. Solution tomorrow.



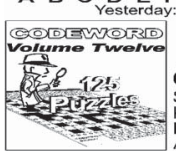
CODEWORD

EACH number in our Codeword grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 14 represents S, so fill in S every time the figure 14 appears. You have two letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the list of alphabetical letters as you identify them. Solution in tomorrow's paper.



Yesterday:

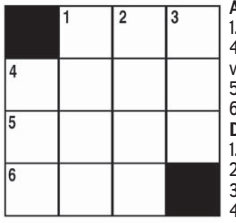
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
C	L	A	S	I	F	Y	P	H	W	O	G	U													
E	N	Z	M	D	V	B	J	K	X	R	T	Q													



Codeword Book: ** Vol Twelve Now Out! **
Send £6.95 (incl UK p&p) by cheque/postal order payable to Knight Features: Trident Ctr, 89 Bickersteth Rd, London SW17 9SH
For credit card orders see www.codewordbook.co.uk
Allow up to 21 days for delivery. Earlier books are also available. 7345

Need a little help getting started? Then call for up to four extra clue letters on: **0901 322 5308**. Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge. Or text **CODEWORD** to 65700 to receive your codeword clues. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.
Phone & Text Services Helpline: DMG Media Mobile & TV 08082720808

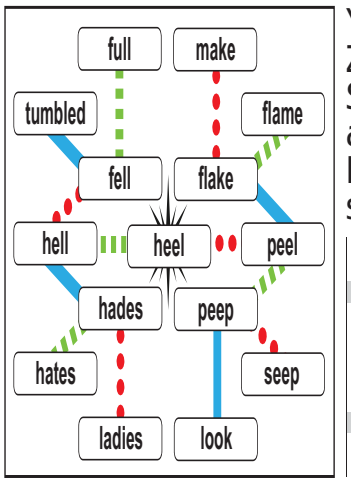
WORLD'S SMALLEST, HARDEST CROSSWORD



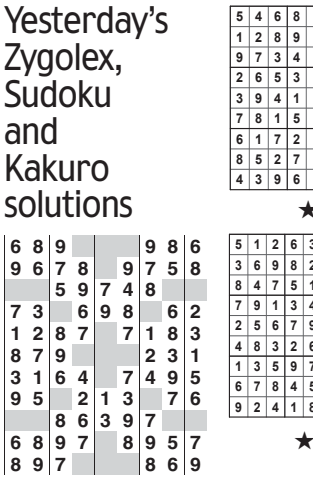
ACROSS
1. Budgetary excess (3)
4. Maori ceremonial war dance (4)
5. Mine opening (4)
6. Japanese coin (3)

DOWN
1. Lose brightness (4)
2. Related (4)
3. Shabby articles (3)
4. Comprises (3)

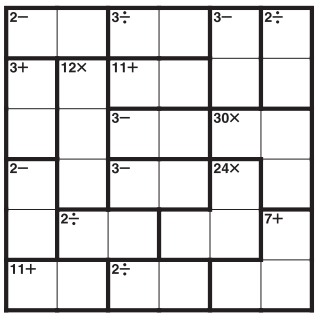
Yesterday's solution **ACROSS:** 1 Achy. 5 Toea. 6 Trin. 7 Nerk. **DOWN:** 1 Attn. 2 Core. 3 Heir. 4 Yank.



Yesterday's Zygolex, Sudoku and Kakuro solutions

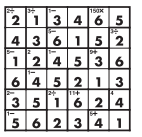


KENKEN



Each row and column must contain the numbers 1 to 6 without repeats. The numbers in the 'cages' (heavily outlined boxes) must combine to produce the target number shown at the start of that cage, using, in any order, the mathematical sign given. Single box cages can be filled in with the number given. Solution tomorrow.

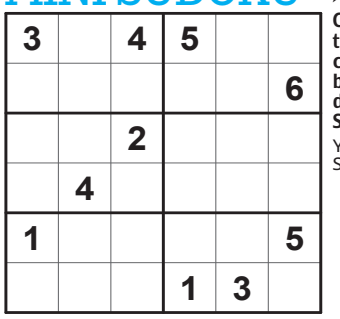
Yesterday's KenKen solution



MINI SUDOKU

★★★☆☆

COMPLETE the grid so that every row, each column and each 2x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 6. Solution tomorrow.

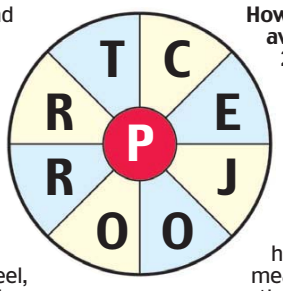


Yesterday's Mini Sudoku solution

6	4	5	1	2	3
1	3	2	6	4	5
5	2	1	3	6	4
4	6	3	5	1	2
2	5	6	4	3	1
3	1	4	2	5	6

WORD WHEEL

YOU have ten minutes to find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each word must use the hub letter and at least three others, and letters may be used only once. You cannot use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns, but verb forms ending in 's' are permitted. There is one nine-letter word in the wheel, for which today's clue is: Scheme, or apparatus for showing a film.



How you rate: 15 words, average; 20 words, good; 25 words, very good; 30 or more, excellent. Solution tomorrow.

Yesterday's words: accent, acne, amen, ament, ante, anthem, cane, cant, **catchment**, cent, chance, chant, enact, etchant, hance, hetman, mane, mean, meant, name, natch, neat, neath, nema, nett, tanh, tench, tent, tenth, than, thane, then.

MINDBENDER

1. In a survey of 1,000 people from Lancre, 801 said they had supped ale at King Verrence's coronation, 469 said they had slurped mead and 412 had enjoyed both. How many people imbibed neither ale nor mead at the event?

2. What connects blanket, honeycomb and book?

3. Which chip off the old political block may pursue HYENA SOLIDLY?

4. Which is the odd one out: Hendon Way, Cleveland Way, Pennine Way, Cotswold Way?

5. Crack the code to find three Roman deities: UFYZ, GPYFD, GFWNLY.

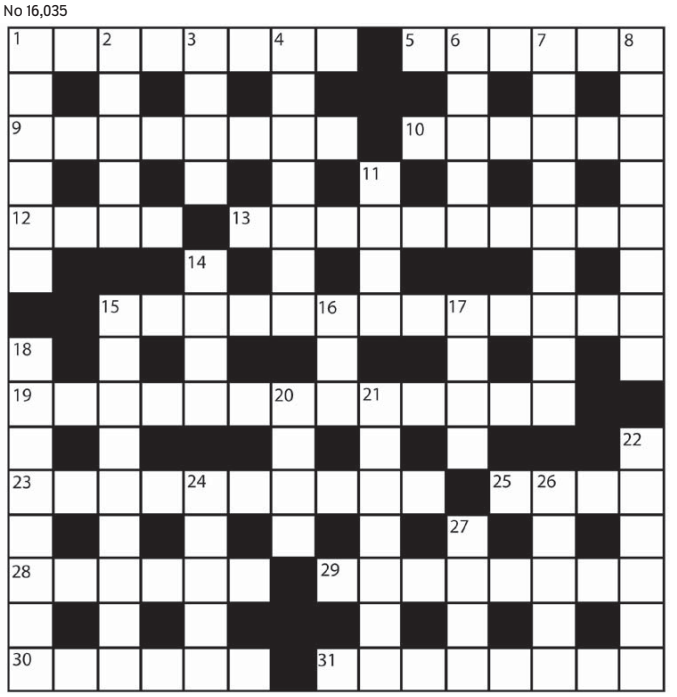
SCOTS QUIZ

1. What did a record 149,415 people watch on this day in 1937?
2. Sanquhar in Dumfriesshire is home to the world's oldest what?
3. Where was world champion racing driver Jackie Stewart born?
4. How many Scottish kings were called Malcolm?
5. What is distinctive about the spiral staircase in Mary, Queen of Scots House in Jedburgh, Roxburghshire?
6. What is the name of the spa town that lies close to the Balmoral Estate?

Answers overleaf

DAILY MAIL CROSSWORD

No 16,035



ACROSS
1 A new smell controlled by clean protein (8)
5 Consume part of Ulysses book that's withdrawn (6)
9 Subdue unit director in urban area (4,4)
10 Take in sailor and soldiers in small boat at first (6)
12 Swerve, very nearly running over European (4)
13 Major operation map exchanged for one in transit (10)
15 Dashing duke is aiming to bring in a piano (13)
19 Being exploitative, left new units in charge after work (13)
23 Prior's neat and decent out of order (10)
25 Fair perhaps misled, having no margins (4)
28 Someone taking stock to market, right inside port (6)
29 Naturally creative traits shaped in class primarily (8)
30 Makes good punches (6)
31 Quiet lady's excited about doctor singing in church (8)

DOWN
1 Voice writer's added after part of play (6)
2 Trace what's covered by printing error (5)
3 Newly-wed loses right to remain (4)
4 A little early moisture expected, say, to decrease (7)
6 Monk's music first to break box office record limits (5)
7 Is he always taking selfies for one Arab about to turn? (9)
8 Deliberately wreck second boat at sea in time (8)
11 Fascinated by odd parts of ignition (4)
14 Originally the supreme autocratic ruler? (4)
15 Swim harbour with minimal clothing, sort of ligature (9)
16 Harshly criticise god (3)
17 You may need crackers to open these crackers (4)
18 Officer with ruler perforated utensil (8)
20 Release gun dog out of bounds (4)
21 Bar part of County Down producing offal (7)
22 Forget lines involving key notice (6)
24 Comb top of mountain (5)
26 Charlotte's finally given up argument (3-2)
27 Either way, Bachelor of Laws retains one invoice (4)

PRIZES of £20 will be awarded to the senders of the first three correct solutions checked. Solutions to: Daily Mail Prize Crossword No. 16,035, PO BOX 3451, Norwich, NR7 7NR. Entries may be submitted by second-class post. Envelopes must be postmarked no later than tomorrow. Please make sure you enclose your name and address.

SOLUTION TO PRIZE CROSSWORD No 16,032: ACROSS: 1 Abscond. 5 Titian. 9 Fleming. 10 Albumen. 11 Imp. 12 Stockholder. 13 Tenor. 14 Adulatory. 16 Pepper pot. 17 Ethos. 19 Word-perfect. 22 Ton. 23 Amnesia. 24 Besmear. 26 Friend. 27 Weighty. DOWN: 1 Afflict. 2 Sleeping partner. 3 Obi. 4 Doggo. 5 Tracksuit. 6 Taboo. 7 Armed to the teeth. 8 In-tray. 12 Spree. 14 Ampersand. 15 Adept. 16 Pawpaw. 18 Synergy. 20 Paste. 21 Elbow. 25 Ski.

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SUDOKU

FILL in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9. Solutions tomorrow.

		5	3	4		6		
6						3	1	
7								9
	1				5			
			7			8	4	
8	7			1	6			
1			5					
	2	3						7
				9	2	5		6

Difficulty rating ★★★☆☆

			9	6			4	
			4		7			
1	9					3		
7					6			9
	1							
	2						3	8
6			5	7	9			
3						8		
		5	6					7

Difficulty rating ★★★★★

3	1	7	9	2	5	7	6	4
5	7	3	6	4	9	8	1	6
6	2	1	5	8	4	3	2	5
4	8	9	7	1	3	6	8	9
7	6	8	2	5	2	1	5	3
2	9	6	4	3	7	9	4	1
8	4	5	3	9	6	4	3	7
9	3	4	1	6	8	5	7	2
1	5	2	8	7	1	2	9	8

☆☆☆☆

5	7	6	4	9	1	2	3	8
9	8	1	6	3	2	7	4	5
4	3	2	5	7	8	9	6	1
3	6	8	9	2	4	1	5	7
7	9	4	1	8	5	3	2	6
2	1	5	3	6	7	4	8	9
6	4	3	7	5	9	8	1	2
8	5	7	2	1	3	6	9	4
1	2	9	8	4	6	5	7	3

★☆☆☆☆

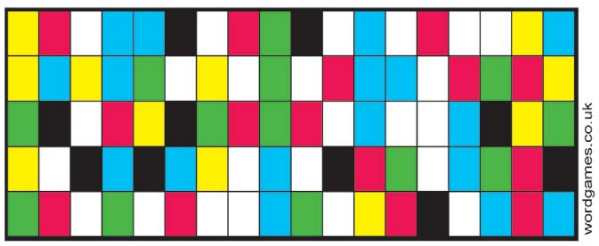
3	7	4	9	8	1	7	8	4
2	4	1	7	5	2	5	4	1
1	9	6	3	2	3	6	9	7
4	5	2	8	6	4	1	7	6
9	8	3	4	1	5	9	8	2
6	1	7	5	9	7	3	6	5
7	6	8	2	4	6	4	5	3
5	2	9	1	3	9	2	1	8
8	3	5	6	7	8	3	7	2

★★☆☆☆

2	5	4	1	9	6	8	3	7
3	6	9	7	5	8	2	1	4
5	8	2	9	4	1	7	6	3
4	1	3	6	2	7	5	9	8
7	9	6	5	8	3	4	2	1
6	4	5	3	7	9	1	8	2
9	2	1	8	6	4	3	7	5
8	3	7	2	1	5	9	4	6

★★★★★

DOODLE-DO



wordgames.co.uk

BLACK in all the shapes containing the colour shown (left). Are you starting to see the shapes of some of the letters? Now black in another set of colours. The remaining pattern should spell out a five-letter word. To give you a clue, one of the letters is shown here: K ____

SOLUTION ON NEXT PAGE

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS

The board on the right shows four rows of letters from a typical Scrabble game. Use each row to form a word of 2-7 letters and write it in the blank squares provided. Then add up the score for each row. Don't forget to use the double and triple word and letter scores — and add a 50-point bonus for every 7-letter word. Blank tiles can be used for any letter but have no score. See tomorrow's paper for the solution.

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							Triple Word Score	RACK 1
A1	F4	S1	F4	Y4	L1	I1		
							Double Word Score	RACK 2
M3	L1	C3	U1	I1	A1	U1		
							Double Word Score	RACK 3
R1	R1	R1	H4	H4	U1	A1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 4
A1	L1	I1	D2	K5	H4	U1		

PAR SCORE 115-125 by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

Yesterday's solution: BEDROOM 62 DULLARD 77 NINEPIN 65 EXAMINE 66 JUDD'S TOTAL: 270

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LOTTERY LOTTO

Eliminate 43 balls and ***WIN THE JACKPOT!***

Ink-in all eliminated balls as you go.

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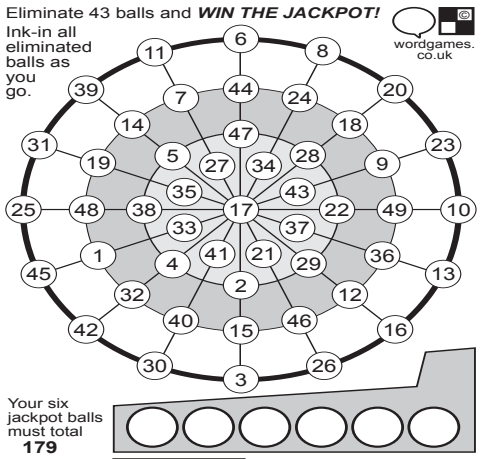

Your six jackpot balls must total **179**

ELIMINATIONS *(Write numbers alongside)*

(30) and all even-numbered balls in the thirties
(12) and the ball with reverse these digits
(9) and single-digit balls lower in position
(28) and the ball 0.25 times this number
(39) and the thirty-ninth greatest ball of the 49
(47) and lesser odd-numbered balls in the forties
(26) and balls on its circle with a 2 or 6
(18) and the ball 1.5 times this number
(22) and the ball 150% of this number
(14) and all balls on its circle with one 4
(13) and two balls which total 13
(29) and two balls which total 29

Solution overleaf

CROSS NUMBER

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE SOLUTION

				25
			8	13
5				29
		7		29
	3			13
13	24	15	32	24

Today's challenge time **11** mins **4** secs

Your working time Min ☐ Secs ☐

FILL each square with a number, 1 to 9. Horizontal squares should add up to totals on right. Vertical squares should add up to totals on bottom. Diagonal squares through centre should add up to totals in top and bottom right. Solution tomorrow.

By Linus Maurer ©2015 King Features Inc.

Yesterday's Sudoku X solution

4	1	5	2	3	6
6	3	2	5	1	4
1	2	6	4	5	3
5	4	3	1	6	2
3	5	4	6	2	1
2	6	1	3	4	5

Yesterday's Cross Number solution

				31
1	7	1	9	18
6	5	7	9	27
5	7	6	9	27
8	6	6	4	24
20	25	20	31	16

GARFIELD

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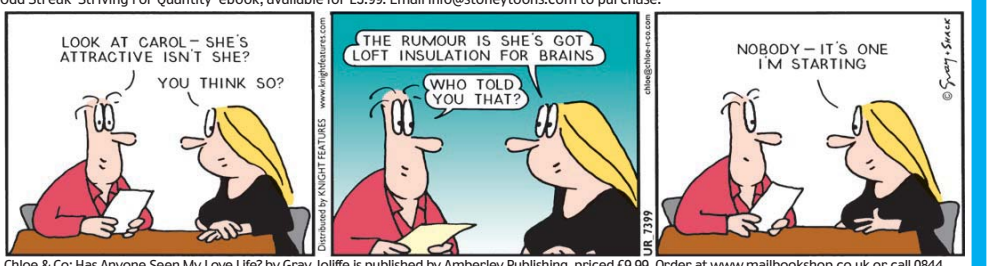

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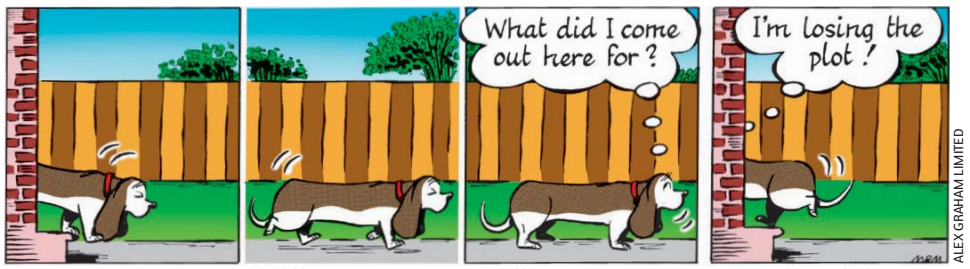
FRED BASSET



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TO PLAY OUR LUCKY SQUARES GAME, SEE NEXT PAGE

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OSCAR CAINER

AS WE approach Good Friday, there's a worthy celestial event arising. The Libran Moon climbs above the horizon at the end of the week. It's the second Full Moon to arrive in Libra, thus making it an Astrological Full Blue Moon — a rare and powerful event. It suggests that an important milestone can be achieved. The illumination it brings, plus the fulfilment it promises, will help us to realise ambitious goals for ourselves and in relationships, too. It's a potent portent for the holiday season that lies ahead.

ARIES Mar 21 – Apr 20 **WITH so much going on in your life, could you be pushing yourself dangerously close to the limit of your abilities? When you're sailing so close to the wind, will taking on 'just one more thing' be enough to make you fly out of control? The answer is a definitive 'no'! It's true you're wrestling with a problem that feels as if it might be too much to handle. But, in the build-up to the Astrological Blue Moon, it's easy to attribute more drama to a situation than it merits. What seems big now will soon look small.** *A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5601.*

TAURUS Apr 21 – May 21 CAROLE KING caught the spirit of intimacy and comradeship in her song You've Got A Friend. It's almost impossible to analyse the ingredients that make friendship work — and perfectly OK to accept that you feel good in the company of one person, but edgy if you spend too much time with another. If you feel in need of a companion who understands your current situation without you having to explain everything, the approaching Astrological Blue Moon brings the person you need. All you have to do is call. *A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5602.*

GEMINI May 22 – June 22 **THERE are few things more irritating than being told a truism after you have made a mistake: 'You didn't think that one through, did you?' or 'You're going to have to face the facts now.' As if you hadn't worked it out for yourself! Yet, right now, the reproachful voice isn't coming from anyone else's lips: it's you giving yourself a hard time. Yes, there are some facts to face. Your attempts at solving a problem might not have worked as well as you'd hoped. But you tried — and you learned. Don't give up.** *A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5603.*

CANCER June 23 – July 23 SOMETHING has got under your skin. And, although you have refrained from stamping your feet, your feelings are leaking out in little bursts of impatience and short-tempered responses to simple questions. You are, of course, feeling extra-sensitive during the approach to the Astrological Blue Moon. If you look again at what has happened, you can find a simple way to heal any hurt with gentle humour. Don't forget your light-hearted side. *A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5604.*

LEO July 24 – Aug 23 **'I DON'T wanna go to school, I just wanna break the rules.' This lyric from pop singer Charli XCX sums up the teenage desire for freedom. It also hints at the potential that these next few days hold for you, when you embrace the opportunities they present. The Astrological Blue Moon energises you and frees you from an emotional tie. The sense of liberation allows you to relax and take some time for yourself. The extra good news is that no one's feelings will be injured as you enjoy your independence.** *A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5605.*

VIRGO Aug 24 – Sep 23 IF YOU want something to be exactly right, that's fine — just remember it will take time and a supply of patience. You'll have to work hard if you want to reach such a high standard. Depending on what you're trying to achieve, exasperation might be a more likely outcome than contentment. Which doesn't mean you should abandon your attempts to put things right. But you don't need to become stressed striving for an impossible goal. Set aside your natural perfectionism: 'good enough' is good enough. *A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5606.*

LIBRA Sep 24 – Oct 23 **WHEN we are experiencing a moment of high emotion, it's hard to imagine being in any other state of mind. That goes for the good times and the bad. When we're feeling happy, for a short while it seems as if life will be like that for ever. And when we're sad? Well, that's the thing. Emotions know no future and no past; they eclipse logic and reason. If you're feeling like your current mood may never change, prepare for the Astrological Blue Moon. Get ready to be uplifted, inspired and excited.** *A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5607.*

SCORPIO Oct 24 – Nov 22 YOUR nerves are on edge. You keep experiencing situations that make little sense and leave you with a feeling of dislocation. Each time you try to get a grip on what's going on, the situation turns to sand in your hands. With other people offering cryptic responses, it's no wonder you've been concerned. But, even though you have real reasons to be anxious, these difficulties are passing. The build-up to the Astrological Blue Moon highlights what's wrong before it shows the way to make things right. *A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5608.*

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23 – Dec 21 **'IT TAKES two baby, me and you.' Marvin Gaye's lyrics highlight our basic human needs, but there are many species, including types of starfish, bees, lizards, sharks and even turkeys, that don't need a partner to procreate. As for the rest of us… it seems we need each other for something, at least! And that's not all we need other people for. Problem-solving is often better when two heads get together. You could survive today by yourself, but, for magic to happen, you need to co-operate.** *A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5609.*

CAPRICORN Dec 22 – Jan 20 THERE are plenty of accounts from people who have had near-death experiences. They describe travelling towards a bright light and feeling a deep sense of peace. Were they on their way to meet their maker, before they were brought back to the mortal plane? Some folk believe we contact the creator simply by allowing the extraordinary natural beauty of the world into our hearts. Rather than preparing for a difficulty, if you feel gratitude for what you have you'll be able to share joy today. *A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5610.*

AQUARIUS Jan 21 – Feb 19 **'THESE dreams go on when I close my eyes… Every moment I'm awake, the further I'm away.' Bernie Taupin's lyrics are a reminder that our dreams shed light on to our waking lives. Some psychologists say our nightly imaginings are the efforts of our subconscious, helping us to make sense of things. When you've lived through a challenging situation, a dream or a period of wakeful deep thought (or meditation) can hold the key to resolving any lingering issues. For answers now, trust your heart.** *A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5611.*

PISCES Feb 20 – Mar 20 WHERE there's a low, there is always a high. It's just that, sometimes, the peaks don't appear as swiftly as we'd like. If we navigate through life by optimism alone, we can find ourselves on the wildest of goose chases. That's why it's best to approach challenges with a sense of realism. That's not the same as pessimism. As long as you're sure that you want to stay involved in a project, you can harness the power of the Astrological Blue Moon. There's good reason to think that your positive outlook is justified. *A rare Astrological Blue Moon brings exciting creative power. Use it and transform your life. For valuable news, call 0906 751 5612.*

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LUCKY Squares ends on Friday, so this week is your last chance to play. Yesterday, eight lucky readers won £25 each in our fantastic game. There's £1 million* up for grabs — play today and you could be our next winner.

HOW TO PLAY

1. FIND your Unique Number in the MyMail panel on the back page of today's paper. Your Unique Number is composed of six two-digit numbers between 01 and 90.

2. EACH square on today's Lucky Squares grid (far right) contains a two-digit number and some of them also contain coloured shapes. Circle the squares whose numbers match any of the two-digit numbers of your Unique Number.

3. TO WIN a prize, your matching squares need to contain all of one type of shape (for example, all three blue diamonds). See the Today's Prizes box for all denominations. If you circle all of one shape, you win the associated prize. You must call today to claim.

TODAY'S PRIZES

Match full sets to win

.....£5,000

.....£1,000

.....£500

.....£100

.....£25

HOW TO CLAIM

1. If you match your Unique Number with an entire set of one shape, call **0345 071 2722** TODAY between 9.30am and 5pm.

2. Every claim must be verified by a complete, original winning newspaper — so retain your copy of the Mail.

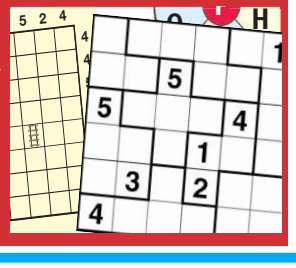
LUCKY SQUARES DAILY GRID – WEDNESDAY APRIL 17

01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90

**TOTAL prize value per 13 weeks. Terms on previous page. Entrants must be UK residents aged 18+. Excludes NI. Claim line calls charged at local rates.*

LUCKY SQUARES ENDS ON FRIDAY

FROM MONDAY THERE'S £3K TO BE WON EACH WEEK WITH OUR NEW DAILY PUZZLES



SOLUTIONS

30-SECOND CHALLENGE: Beginner: 8. Intermediate: 77. Advanced: 72.

QUICK QUIZ ANSWERS: 1 Jennie. 2 India. 3 Jeremy Irons. 4 Sixties. 5 Target.

MINDBENDER ANSWERS: 1 142 people. 2 They are all types of tripe. 3 Lindsay Hoyle. 4 Hendon Way; the others are National Trails. 5 Juno, Venus, Vulcan (A becomes P, B becomes Q, etc).

SCOTS QUIZ ANSWERS: 1 A Scotland v England football match at Hampden Park in Glasgow. 2 Post office. 3 Milton, Dunbartonshire. 4 Four. 5 It is a left-handed staircase. 6 Ballater.

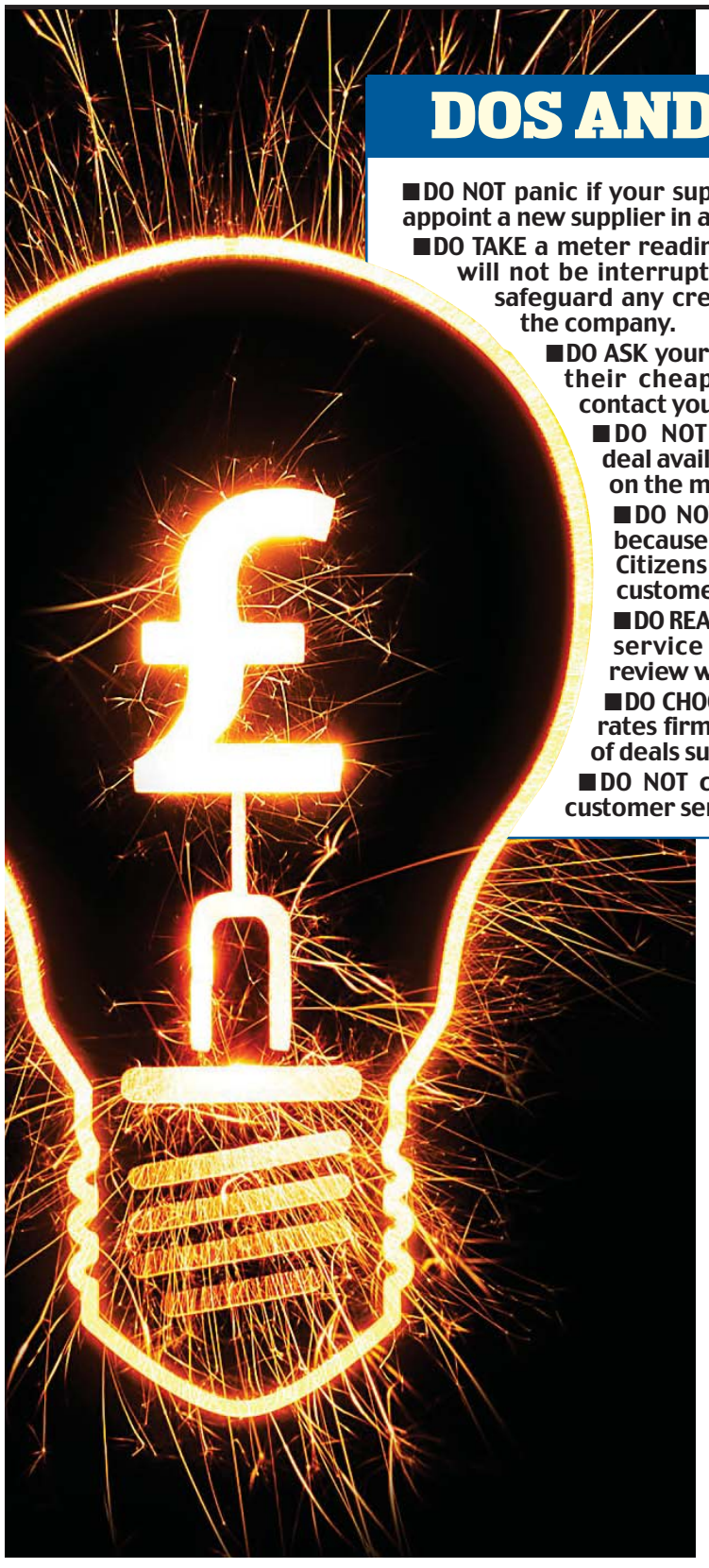
KUROSU:

X	X	O	X	O	O
O	X	O	O	X	X
O	O	X	X	O	X
X	X	O	X	O	O
O	O	X	O	X	X
X	O	X	O	X	O

DOODLE-DO:

The hidden word is **KARMA**

LOTTERY LOTTO: 15 17 31 35 37 44



DOS AND DON'TS

- DO NOT panic if your supplier goes bust. Ofgem will appoint a new supplier in around a week.
- DO TAKE a meter reading and sit tight. Your supply will not be interrupted and Ofgem promises to safeguard any credit balances you have with the company.
- DO ASK your new supplier to put you on their cheapest deal as soon as they contact you.
- DO NOT assume this is the best deal available. Compare it with others on the market.
- DO NOT switch to a supplier just because it has the lowest price. Check Citizens Advice's energy suppliers' customer service ratings.
- DO READ reviews of firms' customer service on social media pages or review websites.
- DO CHOOSE a switching service that rates firms as well as giving the price of deals such as *energyhelpline.com*.
- DO NOT choose a firm that has no customer service telephone number.

nergy has taken a further two 146 monthly payments.

Then, when Brian received his rst bill from Ovo this month, it aid his monthly payments would ıcrease to £188 and failed to show ıe £500 credit he had built up or ıy of the two monthly payments e had made since Economy nergy stopped trading.

He's been told Economy Energy ıust send a final bill to Ovo before e will see his money again.

The 76-year-old retired coach river says: 'The system does not ork. The regulator tells you not) worry, you will be transferred to new supplier and your money is afe. But once they have chosen ıe new supplier, they do not ıake sure the process is working roperly. You are just told to sit ght and wait.'

When the firm collapsed, the nergy Ombudsman was investiating 1,300 cases of dissatisfacon — one of the highest monthly omplaint levels it has seen outside ıe Big Six suppliers.

Former pilot Geoffrey Dryland nd his wife Gillian, a retired eacher, both 74, are waiting for Ovo) refund a £460 credit which they ad built up with Economy Energy.

Geoffrey, from Staffordshire, who ad a stroke last April, says his xperience with both suppliers om start to finish has been very upsetting. 'This whole situation has made me so upset. I have lost all that money.'

Since Money Mail contacted Ovo, it has agreed to refund the couple.

A spokesman for Ovo says it is committed to honouring all credit balances. Economy Energy customers should start receiving final bills in the next few weeks.

RETURNING TO THE BIG SIX

GILLIAN GUY, chief executive of charity Citizens Advice, says long waiting times for refunds, difficulty switching and debt chasing practices when firms fail have prompted a large number of calls from the public.

Regulator Ofgem admits that in some cases it is taking longer than expected for new suppliers to refund customers because of delays caused by poor record-keeping by the failed supplier.

However, it expects the new supplier to work hard to manage the transfer and be ready to deal with any issues that emerge.

Frustrated readers have also told Money Mail how they are battling to get their cash back from small suppliers that are still taking on new customers.

Some are so fed up, they are starting to desert the minnows for the so-called Big Six suppliers: British Gas, Eon, EDF Energy, Npower, Scottish Power and SSE.

While the number of people switching energy suppliers has increased in general, 59,134 customers ditched small and medium-sized companies for a Big Six firm in February, up from 45,383 the previous month, figures from Energy UK show.

Martyn James, of complaints site Resolver, says: 'One of the great tragedies that has come from the spectacularly awful customer service from some smaller energy providers is it could be putting people off switching.'

Peter Coombes, 76, from Bournemouth, says he will never switch to a small supplier again. In October 2017, he moved to Toto Energy when a comparison site told him he could save £288 a year on his combined gas and electricity bill.

Almost straight away, the company upped his combined payments from £93 to £140 a month.

Peter sent in his readings every few months, but was frequently told, via an automated email, that his account could not be found.

Peter decided to switch to large supplier Eon. When he received his final bill in November, he found he was £382 in credit and was told he would receive it in 28 days.

Having heard nothing from the firm by January, he contacted the Ombudsman and finally, in March, Toto agreed to give him his money back and £30 for his troubles.

He received £412.44 in total and closed his account, but forgot to cancel his direct debit. A week later, Toto took the £412.44 back.

Peter says: 'I called them, gave them a piece of my mind, and they gave me my money back two days later. I would never switch to a small supplier again.'

A Toto spokesman says: 'We are in close contact with the Ombudsman and in our most recent meeting they noted that the rise in complaints had been reversed.'

NEW RULES FOR BETTER SERVICE

UNDER Ofgem's new rules, firms will have to prove they can provide good customer service. This includes accurate billing and an efficient phone and email service.

Last year, nearly two-thirds of all complaints received about small suppliers related to billing, according to the Energy Ombudsman.

Switching complaints accounted for 12pc of complaints, customer service 9pc and payments and debt 6pc.

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The Last Word — Page 52

FROM PAGE 39

IF YOU'RE A BANK SCAM VICTIM, USE THIS TEMPLATE LETTER TO FIGHT BACK

[Your full name, address and phone number]

Dear Sir/Madam

Reference: [Insert account number]

I was targeted by fraudsters on [enter date] who stole [enter amount] from my account.

[Explain here what happened]

As of April 14, TSB has agreed to refund all customers who innocently fall victim to scams. And from May 28, other major banks will introduce a new code of conduct that will see customers be treated fairly and compensated when they are defrauded.

I did my best to protect myself from these sophisticated criminals and at no point did I suspect I was communicating with them.

So I urge you to consider my complaint and refund me the money I lost.

If you do not uphold my complaint, I request you send me your reasoning in writing so I can refer the matter to the Financial Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]

We can't predict the future, but we can plan for it. Bringing your pensions together into a Fidelity SIPP could help you take control and get your money working harder.

- Easy to see and manage your retirement savings all in one place
- Low cost, so you keep more of your money
- Flexible retirement income options, with no set-up or withdrawal fees

Get £20 to £1,000 cashback if you apply to transfer your pensions, ISAs or other investments to us by 7 June 2019 (exclusions, T&Cs apply). We'll also cover up to £500 if your current providers charge exit fees (T&Cs apply).

The value of investments can go down as well as up, so you may not get back the amount you originally invest. You cannot normally access money in a SIPP until age 55. Company shares are not yet available for all Fidelity SIPP holders and are not eligible for this offer within a SIPP. Pension transfers can be complex and pensions with safeguarded benefits and advised transfers are not eligible for this offer. Please read our pension transfer factsheet, cashback T&Cs and exit fees T&Cs.

For more information:
0800 358 7486
fidelity.co.uk/cashback
Lines are open Monday to Friday 8am-6pm and Saturdays 9am-6pm

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Use ALL the tax year to invest at leisure... and avoid last-minute panic

TONY HAZELL

The Prudent Investor

THERE'S always a scramble to invest at the end of the tax year — and I've never really understood it.

Those who are self-employed or receive bonuses might have to make a guesstimate of their annual income if they invest early, but delaying until the last minute has always felt like a missed opportunity.

Research suggests delaying could have cost investors the equivalent of a year's £20,000 Isa allowance over the past decade.

Using your Isa allowance or contributing to a pension in April rather than in the following March gives your money almost a year more to grow.

You'll also benefit from any dividend payments made during the tax year.

A second option is to drip money in monthly throughout the year thus surfing the highs and lows of the stock market.

Both options allow us to make investment decisions at leisure rather than being swallowed in a last-minute panic.

Fidelity has put out figures showing what would have happened to investors using their full Isa allowance and tracking the FTSE All Share index over the past ten tax years.

This would mean a total of £136,360 was invested as the Isa allowance grew from £7,200 to £20,000 a year over this period.

Someone investing their full allowance on April 6, the start of the tax year, would by last week have £199,832.

Saving monthly, as I often have, would have accrued someone £192,499 — so not too far behind.

But the person who invested at the end of the tax year, on April 5, would have £179,610. So delaying until the deadline would have cost them £20,000 — they might as well have built a bonfire with a year's Isa allowance.

Investing early only gives you the potential of a year's extra growth but also means you will benefit from any dividends paid through the year, which can be reinvested to boost your returns.

Investment platform Interactive Investor went a step further and checked what would have happened over the past 20 years. It found that the early bird investor would have a portfolio worth almost £388,000, regular monthly investors £381,000 and the last-minute investors £370,000.

This takes in the long market slump in the early 2000s and the banking crisis — both occasions where investing at the end of the year should have had a marked advantage.

Significantly Interactive Investor says that 40pc of its Isa millionaires were April investors compared with 14pc for those investing in March.

Among the non-millionaires, 21pc invested in April and 25pc in March, with the rest spread through the year.

Moira O'Neill, head of personal finance at Interactive Investor says: 'Investing your money for as long as possible is typically beneficial to your long-term wealth.

'But if you can't afford to invest the whole amount at the start, investing regularly is also a good option. Investing early in the tax year won't make a you a millionaire overnight, but it will mean your money is working harder for longer — which will hopefully mean that you won't have to.'

The underlying message is how difficult it is for us private investors to time the market.

Unless we have serious concerns — and I accept Brexit and trade wars are two we must take into account — we do better to get in and then stick with it.

Consider these figures from Hargreaves Lansdown, the fund supermarket. If you had invested £10,000 in the FTSE All Share in 1999 and left it there you would have £28,000 today if dividends had been invested in buying more shares.

If you had been clever or lucky enough to miss the worst ten days you would have £51,700. But if you sold at the wrong time and missed the best ten days you would have £15,100.

The best and worst days tend to come in clusters. The stock market had seven of its worst ten days since 1999 in a two-month spell in autumn 2008 with falls of between 5pc and 8pc on each of these days.

But six of the ten best days were between September and December 2008 with the market rising by between 5pc and 9pc on each day.

Even if you're planning to use a cash Isa early investment really does make sense.

If you're one of those who pays tax on savings interest then delaying will build up a bill for a further year, whereas investing now would stop this.

On a £20,000 fixed-rate cash Isa investment at 1.8pc you would earn £360 interest this year.

So investing now could save £72 tax for a basic-rate payer, £144 for a higher-rate taxpayer or £162 if you pay at the additional rate, compared with having the money in a normal taxed account.

For our part, Mrs H is saving monthly into Lindsell Train Global Equity via a self-invested personal pension, while I've helped a friend stash their money in a cash Isa to reduce tax bills.

As for me: I remain in drip-feeding mode while the Brexit farce plays itself out.

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Time to ditch your big bank Isa

By **Sylvia Morris**

SAVERS with big High Street banks should transfer their Isa cash now to get a better deal.

If you opened an Isa with a major bank in previous tax years it is likely that your rate has now dropped to as little as 0.2pc. Even if it hasn't, you could still earn more elsewhere, with top rates as high as 1.46pc.

This is a difference of £252 interest annually if you put in the full £20,000 Isa allowance.

So if you rushed to open a cash Isa with your current account provider before the tax year ended, you should now consider switching to a better-paying account.

Savers in Halifax Isa Saver Variable currently earn 0.6pc. But once you have been in the account for 12 months the bank moves your money into its Instant Isa Saver paying a miserly 0.2pc. Santander Easy Isa and NatWest Cash Isa both pay as little as 0.2pc and Lloyds Cash Isa Saver 0.35pc.

Barclays Instant Cash Isa savers fare little better with 0.7pc at best, while the HSBC Loyalty cash Isa pays between 0.55pc and 0.85pc.

Under taxman rules, you can move cash Isa savings built up in previous tax years between providers without penalty. You can split them between as many as you want, and between fixed-rate and easy-access accounts.

To switch, you just need to pick a new deal and ask the bank or building society offering it to make the transfer. Do not withdraw the cash yourself as you will only be allowed to reinvest a maximum £20,000 in this tax year.

It is up to each bank and building society as to whether they accept transfers.

Unfortunately, many of the best deals often don't, such as Market Harborough BS Easy Access Isa at 1.25pc. National Savings & Investments Direct Isa at 0.9pc also won't accept transfers.

If your fixed-rate cash Isa is coming to an end, be careful not to transfer it before the end of the term. It could mean you are hit with a hefty penalty.

Top easy-access deals that do accept transfers include Kent Reliance Easy Access Isa at 1.46pc. Online, Paragon Bank Limited Edition Easy Access Isa pays 1.45pc, Coventry BS Easy Access (Online) 2 pays 1.45pc and Leeds BS Limited Edition Online Access 11 pays 1.46pc.

Both Coventry and Leeds rates include a bonus rate for the first year — so you might have to switch again next year.

In the High Street, Yorkshire BS pays 1.46pc and Nationwide up to 1.4pc, but both restrict the withdrawals to as little as one a year. Leeds Double Access Isa allows two annually and pays 1.3pc. Skipton Cash Isa Tracker pays up to 1.36pc with limited withdrawals.

High Street deals with no bonuses or withdrawal restrictions include Virgin Money at 1.16pc and Coventry BS at 1.15pc.

Your switch should be completed within 15 working days.

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Fixed rate bonds dip

INTEREST rates on short-term fixed-rate bonds have fallen to a six-month low, according to researchers Moneyfacts.

The average rate on one-year bonds is now 1.42pc, and savers need to move quickly if they are going to grab top rates.

These rates stay on sale for an average 48 days against a previous 62 days in January.

One of the latest to cut its rate is Shawbrook Bank, which closed its one-year fixed-rate bond at 1.97pc yesterday and replaced it with a new version at a much lower 1.65pc.

The best one-year rate is 2pc with Kent Reliance and Metro Bank. For two years, PCF Bank pays 2.26pc.

SYLVIA MORRIS'S

SAVINGS STAR BUYS

OUR expert's pick of this week's top deals on different types of account

ONLINE ACCOUNTS

TYPE	PROVIDER	ACCOUNT	RATE %
Easy access	Kent Reliance	Online Only Easy Access	1.5
Fixed-rate bond	Kent Reliance	One-year fix	2.0
Easy-access cash Isa	Kent Reliance	Easy Access Cash Isa 18	1.46
Fixed-rate cash Isa	Kent Reliance	One-year fix	1.8

BRANCH ACCOUNTS

TYPE	PROVIDER	ACCOUNT	RATE %
Easy access	Kent Reliance	Easy Access Account 32	1.4
	Virgin Money	Easy Access Saver 32	1.16
Fixed-rate bond	Metro Bank	One-year fix	2.0
	Yorkshire BS	Fixed to April 30, 2020	1.55
Easy-access cash Isa	Kent Reliance	Easy Access Cash Isa 18	1.46
	Market Harborough BS	Easy Access Isa 2019/20	1.25
Fixed-rate cash Isa	Yorkshire BS	Fixed to April 30, 2020	1.55
	Metro Bank	One-year fix	1.55

FOR MORE BEST-BUY SAVINGS TABLES GO TO: THISISMONEY.CO.UK/SAVE

Trendy apps that can turn the ... change from a £1.90 ... into a nice little ...

Pictures: GETTY/STEVEN PUETZER

By **Amelia Murray**

A NEW breed of smartphone apps could help you build a savings habit without even trying.

Some work by automatically rounding up any payments to the nearest pound and stashing away the difference. Others analyse your spending habits and suggest how much you can afford to save.

With Britons saving less than ever, experts say the apps are an easy way to get started and urge parents to encourage children to sign up. But you should avoid leaving cash languishing in these accounts for too long — they're unlikely to offer the best interest rates.

Here, Money Mail explains how the apps work — and the catches to watch out for...

TANDEM

SINCE launching in 2014, Tandem has amassed more than 500,000 customers. It was the first savings provider to insist that you manage your account via a mobile phone.

HOW DOES IT WORK? First, download the Tandem app on to your mobile phone and link it to your current account using Open Banking — a system that allows banks and third parties to share your financial information securely.

To do this, you need to enter your online banking details. Then, every time you use your debit card, your spending will be rounded up to the nearest pound.

The extra will be moved into a flexible savings account paying 0.5pc interest once a week. You will be notified first to give you a chance to change your mind. You can withdraw funds at any time.

Tandem's Safe to Save feature monitors your spending and calculates how much extra you can afford to put away each month. The maximum it will recommend is 15pc of your income.

IS IT SAFE? Up to £85,000 of your money is covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

COST: Free.

MONZO

MONZO Bank began offering app-only current accounts in late 2017 and now has more than one million customers. It launched its savings tool Coin Jar in March 2018.

HOW DOES IT WORK? To sign up, download the Monzo app and open a current account. Then create a 'pot' and select the option to round up transactions automatically.

You can set up multiple pots for different goals — for example to save for a holiday or house deposit. Any payments over £1 will be rounded up to the nearest pound and the extra will go into your chosen pot.

You can also reward yourself for good spending behaviour or set up a penalty pot. You could agree to tax yourself £5 automatically every time you order a takeaway. You can access cash at any time.

IS IT SAFE? Yes, up to £85,000 is covered by the FSCS.

COST: Free.

CHIP

SAVINGS app Chip, which launched in 2016, analyses your spending and decides how much you can afford to save. It has more than 100,000 users.

HOW DOES IT WORK? Download the Chip app and link your current account using Open Banking. Every two to three days, Chip looks at what purchases you've made and compares them to your usual spending patterns.

If you have spent less than expected, the difference will be stashed away. You can also opt to move an additional £100 from your current account to Chip six times a month. You will not earn any interest on what you save.

If you refer people to the app, you will be paid 1pc per person for a year, up to a maximum of 5pc. Withdrawals can be in your current account the same working day.

IS IT SAFE? Your money is ring-fenced in a Barclays account, where up to £85,000 is protected as usual under FSCS.

COST: Free.

PLUM

LONDON-BASED savings app Plum launched in 2017 and has around 375,000 customers.

Like Chip, it helps you save by estimating how much you can afford to spare.

HOW DOES IT WORK? Visit *withplum.com* and set up the app using Facebook's messaging service. You need to enter your email address and bank account information.

Plum analyses your daily spending habits and transfers small amounts into a savings account around five times a month.

You can choose between six settings: 'Normal' is the default, while 'Beast' mode, for example, ramps up the amount you save by as much 75pc. However, you will not earn any interest.

Withdrawals are paid within 24 hours on business days.

You can also opt to invest your cash. Choose from three risk options: conservative, balanced or growth. You can pick the types of firms you want to invest in, such as ethical or tech companies.

If you need your investment back, it can take up to a week.

IS IT SAFE? As with Chip, up to £85,000 cash and investments is protected in a Barclays account.

COST: Free if you stick to cash. The investment option is free for the first month and is £1 a month thereafter. There is also a 0.15pc fee on the value of your fund investments, charged monthly.

MONEYBOX

MORE than 150,000 customers have signed up for London-based Moneybox since it launched in 2016. Instead of storing your money in cash, it invests it.

HOW DOES IT WORK? Download the Moneybox app, enter your bank details to link it to your account and open a stocks and shares Isa. You can choose to make one-off payments or just use the round-up option. There are three investment options to choose from: cautious, balanced and adventurous. It may take two weeks to withdraw any money.

IS IT SAFE? Up to £85,000 of your money is protected under the FSCS investment limit.

COST: There is no subscription fee for the first three months, after which you pay £1 a month. On top of this there is a monthly 0.45pc platform fee and fund fees of between 0.12pc and 0.3pc.

BIG BANKS

LLOYDS and TSB also offer auto-saving schemes to customers with current and savings accounts, so you don't have to share your details with a third party.

Switch on Lloyds' Save the Change feature by logging into your online banking, visiting a branch or calling 0345 300 0000. TSB has a similar scheme which rounds up spare change.

However, big banks rarely pay the best rates. Lloyds' Easy Saver account, for example, pays 0.2pc. TSB's Easy Saver pays 0.5pc.

a.murray@dailymail.co.uk

We're offering up to

1.30% AER/tax-free (variable)

on a cash ISA at a 'nice to meet you' rate

If you're not a Nationwide member, or have been with us for less than a year, open a Nationwide Single Access ISA and earn up to 1.30% AER/tax-free (variable) interest. You're a member when you have a current account, mortgage or savings account with us.

Should you wish to make a withdrawal at any time, the first withdrawal per Account Year* won't affect the interest rate. If you want to make further withdrawals in the same year, then the interest rate will go down to 0.50% AER/tax-free (variable) until the anniversary of when you opened your account. After that, it will go back up to the higher rate again. You can save up to your annual ISA allowance, or transfer your existing ISAs into your new Nationwide ISA. This ISA is available for a limited time only.

Nationwide Building Society

*Account Year means 12 months from the date the account was opened and each following 12 month period. UK residents, 16+. AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate which illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and compounded once per year. Tax-free is the contractual rate of interest payable where interest is exempt from income tax. The information provided is based on our understanding of current law and HM Revenue & Customs practice, both of which may change. Interest is paid annually. Interest rates and products can change or be withdrawn without notice. Information correct at 21/03/2019.

Nationwide Building Society. Head Office: Nationwide House, Pipers Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN38 1NW.

The new £9,000 pension hammer blow for women

By **Ben Wilkinson**

THOUSANDS of women could be deprived of more than £9,000 in retirement because of another careless oversight with the rise in state pension age.

Campaigners are already calling for compensation for women unable to prepare for the loss of income after the Government increased their state pension age from 60 to match men at 66 in 2020 and then to 67 by 2028.

Now, Money Mail can reveal how hundreds of thousands of women could find their private pensions are also much worse off due to the change to their official retirement age.

Among those potentially affected include workers approaching the end of their careers, whose pension fund is moved into safer, but less lucrative, investments — usually ten to 15 years before they expected to retire.

This is called 'lifestyling' and is done to shield their savings after years of more risky, but usually much more profitable, investment gains.

However, if your new state retirement age has now been moved from 60 up to 67, then that would mean your pot could miss out on seven years of vital bountiful investment.

Analysis for Money Mail reveals that if an average pension pot of £50,000 is 'lifestyled' seven years too early, then the owner could miss out on returns of £9,357 over the course of retirement — or £327.50 a year.

Men drawing a pension at 65 and women at 60 was the established norm for the second half of the 20th century. Anyone buying or selling a financial product probably assumed that this would not change. As a result there are likely to be lots of products and contracts based on drawing a pension at 60 or 65 that could now cause problems.

Experts are calling for a review of all policies written to last until the ages of 60 or 65, rather than 'the state pension age'.

Steve Webb, director of policy at Royal London, says: 'Providers should be ensuring customers are not caught in this trap, and savers should review their policies to check the retirement plans they set out years ago reflect the new situation.'

The former pensions minister adds: 'Thousands of women will have taken out private pensions when they expected to draw their pensions at 60. If they and their pension provider have not revisited this plan, there is a risk that their investments will have been switched into a cautious 'pre-retirement' mode up to seven

Now the taxman cuts

TAXPAYERS are spending hours trying to speak to HM Revenue & Customs on the telephone, only to be cut off.

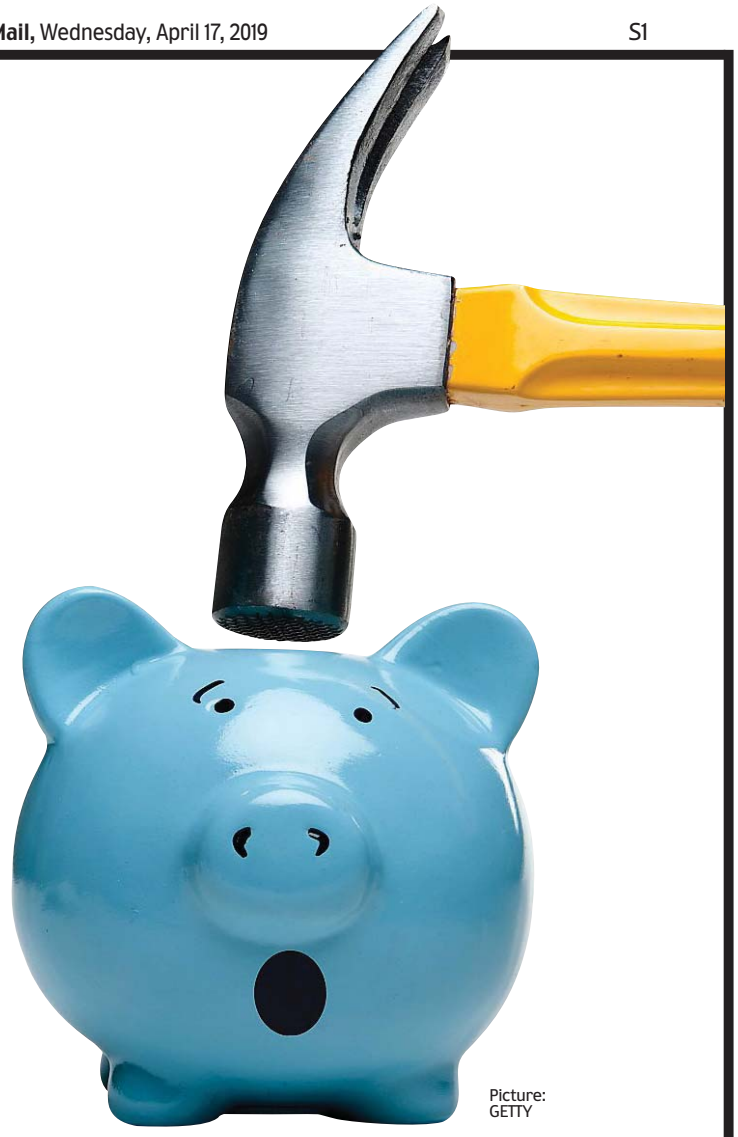
Readers have told Money Mail they have found it 'impossible' to speak to the taxman as the latest figures show the department is failing to hit its targets for answering calls.

Many reported being cut off after speaking to an automated voice system for more than ten minutes. The frustration comes as many receive penalty notices for late tax returns in the new financial year.

April also sees people flood HMRC with queries over new tax codes, allowances and changes to the system. Taxpayers dialling the 0300 number — which charges up to 10p a minute (landline) or up to 40p (mobile) — are being greeted with the message: 'We are very busy right now and you might have to wait longer to speak to an adviser.'

Callers then have to speak to an automated voice recording to categorise their call. This can take ten minutes before the caller is put on hold, or told to try later and cut off.

One self-employed consultant spent all of Friday afternoon unsuccessfully trying to speak to HMRC about a £100 penalty she had wrongly received for a late tax return that she had filed in Decem-



Picture: GETTY

years too soon. This could knock thousands off a typical pension pot.'

If you are worried your pension pot could be 'lifestyled' too early, you should contact your provider.

Many 'bridging' pensions were also promised to pay up until the ages of 60/65 — and could now end prematurely. These were offered to workers retiring before they reached state pension age. It would pay you the state pension rate until you were entitled to collect it — meaning you could retire early.

Pensions expert Baroness Ros Altmann says: 'That's not something that people have ever been warned about. It is a forgotten consequence of the increase to the state pension age.

'You have to live on less and you may not have budgeted for that. Some people have been left high and dry.'

The findings come after Money Mail revealed last month how thousands of people were sold income protection policies that will run dry before they can collect their state pension.

The insurance was commonly sold to last until state retirement age, but now people claiming will see payments stop well before they can afford to retire, leaving them with a devastating shortfall.

It is understood at least one major insurer is now preparing to warn customers affected by the oversight, while industry body the Association of British Insurers (ABI) has alerted members to the issue.

Money Mail readers also came forward to tell their stories of the issue described as 'an absolute scandal'.

One, aged 51, has been claiming £750 a month since 1996 when she became too ill to work after developing the neurological condition ME, contracting meningitis and having been born with the Ehlers-Danlos syndrome genetic disease.

But her policy payments will end seven years before she can collect her pension. The woman, who asked not to be named, says her financial adviser did not give her the option to have the policy run any longer than 60.

She took it out with Tunbridge Wells Equitable, which is now run by Foresters, and says: 'The change of circumstance is not ours, it has been forced on us.

'I am going to be missing out on more than £70,000 and will spend seven years living in poverty as I have no private pension or any income other than state sickness benefits. The worry keeps me awake at night.'

Money Mail has seen two policy information booklets that reveal those taking out the cover were offered protection only until the age of 60 if a woman or 65 for men.

b.wilkinson@dailymail.co.uk

Did you know?

A 50p coin featuring the black hole and Stephen Hawking's name is on sale at the Royal Mint for £10

you off after 10 minutes

ber. She says: 'It was an automated message for ten minutes, and at the end they say we are too busy and the phone line goes dead. It is a ridiculous system. They make it incredibly difficult to speak to anyone.

'I cannot tell you how many hours I have wasted on this. People just want to pay their tax and be upstanding members of society, but they make it as difficult as possible.'

The latest figures from HMRC show the average time to answer a call in February was six minutes 27 seconds, but this does not include the automated voice system. The target time is five minutes.

The average response time from April 2018 to February 2019 was five minutes 14 seconds — up from four minutes 27 seconds when compared with the same period a year before.

The tax office also aims to make sure no more than 15 pc of customers are left waiting more than ten minutes to speak to an adviser.

But in February, 29 pc of calls went unanswered for at least ten minutes. One worker said they had been on hold for 45 minutes.

An HMRC spokesman says: 'We know that at busy times some customers have to wait longer, and we are doing all we can to keep all waiting times as low as possible.'

b.wilkinson@dailymail.co.uk

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1.40%

AER/tax-free (variable)

on a cash ISA at a 'hello my old friend' rate

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Building Society

*Account Year means 12 months from the date the account was opened and each following 12 month period. UK residents, 16+. AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate which illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and compounded once per year. Tax-free is the contractual rate of interest payable where interest is exempt from income tax. The information provided is based on our understanding of current law and HM Revenue & Customs practice, both of which may change. Interest is paid annually. Interest rates and products can change or be withdrawn without notice. Information correct at 21/03/2019.

Nationwide Building Society. Head Office: Nationwide House, Pipers Way, Swindon, Wiltshire SN38 1NW.

They're the gadgets that slash teens' car insurance premiums. But...

Black boxes can now save OLDER drivers a fortune

By **Rosie Taylor**

OLDER motorists facing sky-high car insurance charges due to their age are being urged to save money with new technology that prices premiums simply on how you drive.

Black box car insurance has been praised for reducing accidents and helping young drivers save hundreds of pounds. Officially known as telematics insurance, this type of policy gets its name from the small device insurers fit in your car to monitor your driving.

Typical car insurers price premiums according to how much risk they think you pose, based on such factors as your age and where you live. But with telematics policies, prices can go up or down depending on your driving style, mileage, routes you tend to take and the time of day you travel.

Studies show that drivers who have a black box fitted into their car tend to drive more carefully. In return, they are rewarded with a cheaper policy.

The deals are proving popular among younger drivers desperate to reduce prohibitively high premiums because of their age.

Around one in three drivers under 25 uses a black box to save money on their insurance, according to analysts LexisNexis Risk Solutions.

Yet, only one in ten people aged between 35 and 54 has taken out a telematics policy — and just one in 20 drivers aged over 55.

Money Mail research suggests this may be because older drivers are not aware of this type of insurance. Our analysis shows that drivers in their late 50s were typically offered half as many black box deals as drivers in their early 20s.

This is despite motorists aged 50 to 64 standing to save an average of £484 per year with such a policy, according to comparison site Comparethemarket. Those aged 65 to 79 could save £343, and over-80s could pocket £145, it adds.

Martyn Mathews, of LexisNexis, says: 'The vast majority of drivers who could gain from the safety advantages of telematics and insurance costs based on how they drive, rather than how insurance providers think they might drive, are missing out.'

Experts believe offering more elderly drivers black box policies could also help put an end to unfairly high premiums.

Earlier this year, Money Mail revealed how some octogenarian drivers were quoted up to £3,800 for an annual premium, despite driving for six decades without a claim.

Insurers put over-80s into a 'high risk' category, because they are statistically more likely to have an accident.

But as Roger Ramsden, group chief executive of telematics insurer MyPolicy, says: 'The traditional insurance industry is based on putting drivers into clusters of risk, but, by its very nature, that system means that half of those in every group are overpaying and the other half are underpaying.'

Black boxes could overcome this problem, as older drivers can use their driving data to prove they are still safe behind the wheel.

Despite the benefits for all drivers, insurers are targeting black box policies at younger people who may be more willing to try out new technology and are desperate to lower their sky-high premiums.

But there may be other factors putting older drivers off.

A third of drivers who told Comparethemarket they did not want a black box were worried about having to pay for the removal of the box if they switched insurers.

Coverbox charges £60 to remove its gadget, while the cost to disconnect the device during your policy with Admiral LittleBox is £100 — although there is no fee if you choose not to renew at the end of your cover.

And there are extra charges if you change your car: Insurethebox charges £90, Admiral £59.50 and Ingenie between £80 and £160, depending on how many times you move vehicle.

Most black box insurance companies offer free installation and include the cost of the device in your first premium.

But some insurers require you to have a minimum premium, such as Admiral LittleBox, where drivers must pay at least £650 per year. Others may charge a 'device management fee', such as Coverbox, which is £120 for the first year and £60 every year thereafter.

One solution could be to install your own black box, which allows you to share driving data with any insurer. The newly launched Theo 'super dashcam', monitors and films driving, and will let users share their data in the near future. It costs £169.99, plus £50 for installation and a £4.99 per month subscription.

moneymail@dailymail.co.uk

Driving a bargain: Michelle Seelhoff

'Big Brother' device cut my bill by £250

WHEN Michelle Seelhoff, 55, used a comparison website to search for car insurance for her Land Rover Freelander, she — like many older drivers — was offered just one telematics deal.

But the artist and her husband, Kevin, 57, who works in construction supplies, decided to take out the £400 policy with Coverbox because the next cheapest deal on offer was around £250 more expensive.

Michelle says: 'I'm a safe driver, so I knew I might be able to save money with a black box deal.

'I didn't have any concerns that the way I drive would make my premium go up.'

An engineer came to their home, near Taunton in Somerset, to fit the device under the dashboard — a process that took around 30-45 minutes.

'It looked exactly the same as before. You couldn't see the box at all,' she says. The installation was free, but the couple had to pay a policy set-up fee of £10 and a 'device management fee' of £120.

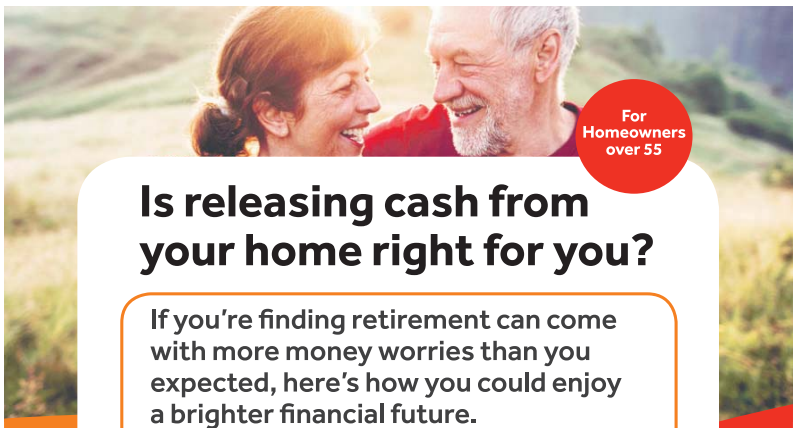
They renewed this year and these fees dropped to £5 and £60, respectively.

But Michelle says the deal was a bargain, even with the added costs. 'As well as saving us around £200 a year, it also makes you think a bit more about how you drive,' she says.

Michelle doesn't check her driving score online because she is confident she drives safely at all times, saying she is a 'goody-goody' about sticking to speed limits and not braking harshly.

She adds: 'Although I joke that it's a bit like Big Brother watching you, I think it has a positive effect and makes you drive more carefully – which is a good thing.'

moneymail@dailymail.co.uk



For Homeowners over 55

Is releasing cash from your home right for you?

If you're finding retirement can come with more money worries than you expected, here's how you could enjoy a brighter financial future.

- Equity release could unlock £10,000 – £100,000 or more of the equity that's locked in the value of your property.
- All the cash you release is tax-free to spend as you choose.
- 100% independent advice from our fully qualified equity release advisers.
- The most popular type of equity release is a lifetime mortgage which is a loan secured against your home, like a traditional mortgage.
- You'll still own your own home and can keep living there as long as you wish with a lifetime mortgage.
- There are typically no monthly repayments as the loan, plus roll up interest, is repaid when the plan comes to an end.
- Equity release will reduce the value of your estate and may affect your entitlement to means-tested benefits.

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good advice is key the equity release broker

Key is an Equity Release broker whose usual advice fee is 1.99% of the amount released, subject to a minimum of £1,499 payable only on completion. Over-55 homeowners only.

Jail for the Wolves of Wind Street

A TEAM of call centre scammers who called themselves the Wolves of Wind Street have been jailed for their shameless operation.

As Money Mail reported last month, the group conned 1,200 elderly victims, whom they referred to as 'pension-rich suckers', out of £425,000.

Consumers were told they would get a free boiler under a Government scheme that did not exist, in return for an upfront fee.

Company directors, Kyle Lewis, 30, Darren Palmer, 42, and David Alford, 33, were each jailed for three years and nine months, while compliancy manager, Jason Cunliff, 42, was jailed for 18 months.

The court heard the group earned up to £8,000 a day at its peak, which they spent on drinking and partying in the notorious Wind Street nightclub area of Swansea.

The company was about to expand into the PPI market and open a new office when Trading Standards raided the premises in 2015.

Last Word — Page 52

My son quit his mobile deal but got a £1,800 bill

MY ADULT son is extremely dyslexic and relies on me for help with financial matters. Recently, I spotted he had two monthly payments being taken for his mobile phone, one to Orange and the other to EE, which operates Orange.

It seems that, after he terminated a contract on October 31, 2014, monthly payments continued to be taken. I worked out he was owed £1,777.35. I now realise I missed one month's payment from my total, so the amount is actually £1,812.20.

We were told everything would be settled in ten to 14 days and he would receive £1,766.19 from EE. There was no explanation as to why the amount was reduced.

Six weeks have passed and he has still received nothing.

Mrs L. K., South Glos.

EE TELLS me the original contract was never cancelled and that's why direct debits continued to be taken. But it can see there has been no use, so it is happy to make the refund.

It says it tried to process the repayment directly to your son's bank account, but the details were not valid, so it sent a cheque instead. Your son has now received £1,766.19.

EE has also given him a month's credit on his new account to settle matters. It has suggested you are co-named on his account in case of any future issues.

Illustration: ANDY WARD

I WAS left legacy shares in Rexam plc. This was taken over by Ball Corporation in July 2016. How can I sell these shares, which I don't believe are listed on the London Stock Exchange?

L. C., by email.

I HAVE a number of ordinary shares with BP that I would like to sell. Can you tell me the best way to go about this?

M. P., by email.

I'VE had a few questions about selling shares. I am guessing these are from people with old certificates, as opposed to those who hold them electronically via broker nominee accounts.

I took these questions to Andy Parsons, head of investments and product proposition at The Share Centre.

'If the shares are held in a nominee account, all that needs to happen is for the customer to call the holding broker and request a sale,' he says.

'If the holding is held in certificated form, the customer should contact the registrar stated on the certificate to check the validity of it and ask who they have as their designated broker for selling.

'If you hold any foreign stock with your nominated broker, these should generally be in electronic form and therefore relatively easy to trade.'

Apparently, when Rexam was acquired by Ball Corporation, investors would have received a choice of cash or new shares in Ball Corporation.

Costs can differ between brokers and it is worth shopping around to see who offers the lowest dealing charges, but with paper certificates it is likely to cost at least £20.

Ask TONY

Money Mail's letters page tackles all your financial headaches

WE ARE selling our house for £105,000 and moving into rented sheltered housing. We would like to give this money to our three children before we die. Will they have to pay inheritance tax if we do?

G. C., Paisley, Renfrewshire.

IN SHORT: no, unless you have considerable assets elsewhere.

You and your wife each have an inheritance tax (IHT) allowance of £325,000. In addition, you have a residence allowance of £150,000 each as long as the property, or the money from it, is left to direct descendants. So, together, you can leave £950,000 without your estates being liable to IHT.

The one issue I will raise is that of care fees. If, at some future date, you or your wife have to go into care and are not self-funding, then the local authority may decide that you have deliberately deprived yourself of assets in order to avoid paying care fees.

In this case, it could seek to recover the money you have given away in order to pay for your care. However, it can do this only if you had a reasonable expectation of needing to pay for care when you made the gift.

This is complex, so you may wish to seek legal advice before proceeding, either from a lawyer or your local Citizens Advice.

■ WRITE to Ask Tony, Money Mail, Scottish Daily Mail, 20 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 6DB or email *asktony@dailymail.co.uk* — include phone number, address and a note addressed to the offending organisation giving it permission to talk to Tony Hazell. We regret we cannot reply to individual letters. Please do not send original documents as we cannot take responsibility for them. No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Daily Mail for answers given.

YOU HAVE YOUR SAY

EVERY week, Money Mail receives hundreds of your letters and emails about our stories. Here are some from our article on how certain pet insurance firms try to wriggle out of paying claims…

INSURANCE firms always ask how they can refuse, recoup or reduce claims. I used to work as a loss adjuster. I know the drill.

T. S., Ashford.

ALWAYS check the policy small-print. The premium may seem small, but it's not worth it if it doesn't cover what you need.

H. N., London.

IT WOULD be more sensible to open another bank account and use it to save up for vet bills than to take out an insurance policy.

I. C., by email.

IN 1995, my cat was killed by a car so I claimed on my pet insurance. I was told to send a photo and a signed statement from my vet to prove the cat was dead.

B. C., by email.

PET insurance is just a scam. Firms usually stop paying out in full once an animal is eight years old, which is when it is more likely to need treatment.

C. R., Paris.

STRAIGHT TO THE POINT

PLUSNET has not billed me for my broadband or landline since November. It says the system will be sorted soon, but I'm still waiting.

D. W., Harrogate, N. Yorks.

PLUSNET says some customers are having issues with its new billing system, which it introduced last year. It adds it is working hard to fix the problem and will backdate bills for a maximum of only three months when the issue is sorted.

I ACCEPTED a temporary nursing role through an agency which promised, in an email, to pay £9.78 an hour, but I was paid only £9.07 an hour. I was told I must accept the lower sum.

H. M., by email.

IT IS useful that you have written evidence, says Martha McKinley, an employment law solicitor at Stephensons. If you signed a contract, even better, as the firm would likely be in breach had it failed to notify you in writing of the new rate before you completed the work. You should make a formal complaint and request the shortfall is reimbursed. If it refuses, seek legal advice.

MY FRIEND and I lost our jobs and can no longer afford to go on a booked group holiday. Our friends don't want to go without us, and easyJet is refusing to refund all our fares.

N. H., by email.

EASYJET says it was sorry to hear of your circumstances, but your tickets are non-refundable. It recommends taking out comprehensive travel insurance to cover such situations.

E.ON sent me an estimated bill that was too high. When I called to provide my actual readings, the sum was reduced, but E.ON still wants to increase my monthly direct debit.

J. M., Colchester.

E.ON reviews direct debits twice a year to stop customers building up debt. However, because you have solar panels that, in summer, generate more electricity than you need, it's hard to work out what you should pay. E.ON has now agreed to lower your monthly bills.

YORKSHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY

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The tax treatment of ISAs depends on your circumstances and may change in the future.

*AER stands for the Annual Equivalent Rate and shows you what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and added each year. This will enable you to compare more easily the return you can expect from your savings over time.

**Variable rate of interest means that the interest rate payable on your account can change and can move both up and down.

†Tax-free means that interest is not subject to income tax.

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Stick to switching

THE LAST WORD

By Victoria Bischoff
MONEY MAIL EDITOR

THERE has been no greater champion of the liberalisation of the energy market than Money Mail.

For decades, we have campaigned to break the stranglehold of the Big Six suppliers and boost competition so customers can get a better deal.

Time and again, we have reported how readers can save hundreds of pounds a year by giving lesser-known firms a chance.

Today, it may be time to concede that the race to compete on price is having some negative consequences.

As we report on Pages 40 and 45, many customers are at their wits' end after fighting for months to get their money back from small firms that have gone bust.

This section has spent years trying to cajole households into shopping around, but now I fear customers will become so frustrated they'll give up on switching altogether. This would be a devastating outcome, as staying with the same supplier year after year means you could miss out on enormous savings.

It would be unfair to tar all small suppliers with the same brush. Many do a brilliant job, and without them forcing behemoths such as British Gas to compete for your custom, bills could sky-rocket.

So what should *you* do? Well, I switch energy provider every year and I admit that, up until now, I have been pretty cavalier when it comes to choosing supplier. My mantra was: 'Cheapest is best.'

Now, I'll be paying far more attention to how a firm's customer service is ranked by Citizens Advice. This is vital because high numbers of complaints and problems getting credit balances refunded are tell-tale signs that a supplier may be in trouble.

Watchdog Ofgem has promised to push up service standards and force new firms to pass stricter checks before they are allowed to take on customers. But it needs to move swiftly, before nervous households are driven back to the pricey Big Six suppliers.

Sharks tanked

IT IS a relief to learn that a gang of cold-calling sharks who conned elderly victims out of £425,000 in just five months are now off the streets — for a while, at least.

The four scammers, who called themselves the 'Wolves of Wind Street', were jailed on Monday for conspiring to defraud, in their own, charming words, 'pension-rich suckers'.

As Money Mail reported recently, the group had promised victims new boilers in return for an upfront fee of £299 or £399 under a government scheme that did not exist.

The gang, who chose their nickname because they spent much of their ill-gotten gains wining and dining in the notorious Wind Street nightclub area of Swansea, South Wales, were stopped only after local trading standards intervened.

The trio of company directors were each jailed for three years and nine months. A fourth member of staff was sentenced to 18 months. If it were up to me, I'd throw away the key.

In praise of AXA

HERE at Money Mail, we regularly hear from readers who feel let down by insurers. So it makes a nice change to print a positive tale.

Tony, from Dawlish, South Devon, says his travel insurer, AXA, went above and beyond the call of duty when his wife fell ill in India.

Following a stay in Agra, home to the Taj Mahal, the couple came down with food poisoning. Tony recovered, but his wife had to spend six days in hospital.

He writes: 'AXA covered all hospital and extra accommodation costs and took control of the situation, which was a relief. It also paid for first-class flights home and flew in caring Dr Singh Satvender to provide medical supervision on the journey home.'

Well done AXA!

v.bischoff@dailymail.co.uk

MONEY BEST BUYS ... OUR PICK OF THE TOP DEALS

MORTGAGES

LENDER	RATE	DETAILS	DEPOSIT	FEE	CONTACT
TWO-YEAR FIXES					
Santander	1.54 pc	to 02/07/21	25pc	£999	0800 100 802
Post Office	1.81 pc	to 31/05/21	15 pc	£495	0800 077 8033
Virgin Money	2.99 pc	to 01/09/21	5pc	£0	0345 605 0500
FIVE-YEAR FIXES					
Barclays	1.83 pc	to 31/07/24	40 pc	£999	0333 202 7580
Yorkshire BS	2.1 pc	to 30/06/24	15pc	£995	0345 166 9510
Coventry BS	2.25 pc	to 30/06/24	10pc	£999	0800 121 8899
BASE-RATE TRACKERS					
Leeds BS	Base +0.98 pc	to 31/05/21	25 pc	£0	0345 045 4049
HSBC	Base +0.84 pc	for two years	20pc	£999	0800 494 999
Nationwide	Base +1.39pc	for two years	10pc	£999	0800 302 010
BUY-TO-LET					
Post Office	1.93 pc	to 31/05/21	25 pc	£995	0800 077 8033
Leeds BS	2.15 pc	to 31/07/24	40 pc	£999	0345 045 4049
Virgin Money	3.73 pc	to 01/09/24	20 pc	£995	0345 605 0500

ENERGY

UTILITY POINT
- UP Variable Direct April 2019
- Variable

ANNUAL BILL £911 03455 577 878

YORKSHIRE ENERGY
- Green Gosling
- Fixed Until May 31, 2020

ANNUAL BILL £960 0113 451 0700

ENGIE
- Fixed Sept 21 v5 Paperless
- To Sep 30, 2021

ANNUAL BILL £1,038 0800 280 8000

BRITISH GAS
- Energy Plus Boiler Cover
- Until April 30, 2020

ANNUAL BILL £982 0333 202 9802

Based on national average usage

This week you should...

PREPARE for your summer break. Buy travel insurance as soon as possible so you are covered for cancellations or illness. Book cheaper airport parking in advance through firms such as Holiday Extras (*holidayextras.co.uk*) and Looking4Parking (*looking4.com*). And buy your currency in the High Street or online, rather than being stung at the airport — try *travelmoneymax.com*

CREDIT CARDS

CASHBACK & PERKS — Amex: 0800 032 7642. Tandem: 020 3370 0970

PROVIDER	CARD	APR	PERKS
American Express	Platinum Cashback	22.9 pc	5 pc cashback up to £100 in first 3 months
Tandem	Cashback Credit Card	18.9 pc	0.5 pc cashback on purchases

SPENDING — Virgin Money: 0800 389 2875. Sainsbury's Bank: 0808 540 5060

PROVIDER	CARD	INITIAL RATE	APR
Virgin Money	28-Month Purchase Credit Card	0 pc for 28 months	19.9 pc
Sainsbury's Bank	Dual Credit Card	0 pc for 28 months	20.9 pc

BALANCE TRANSFERS — Sainsbury's Bank: 0808 540 5060. HSBC: 03456 040 626

PROVIDER	CARD	BALANCE TRANSFER RATE	FEE
Sainsbury's Bank	29-month Balance Transfer Credit Card	0 pc for 29 months	3 pc
HSBC	28 Month Balance Transfer Credit Card	0 pc for 28 months	1.4 pc

CURRENT ACCOUNTS

MOSTLY IN THE BLACK

NATIONWIDE FLEXDIRECT
5 pc on balances up to £2,500 for first 12 months
- Top interest rate you'll find

0800 30 20 10

TSB CLASSIC PLUS
5 pc on balances up to £1,500
- You must pay in £500 every month

0345 835 3844

BANK OF SCOTLAND
1.5 pc variable
- No yearly fee

0345 721 3141

MOSTLY IN THE RED

FIRST DIRECT 1ST ACCOUNT
0 pc overdraft to £250
- You must pay in £1,000 a month

03456 00 24 24

NATIONWIDE FLEXDIRECT
0 pc overdraft for 12 months
- No minimum pay-in each month

0800 30 20 10

Sources: L&C Mortgages, GoCompare, Energyhelpline, ONS inflation

CPI INFLATION +1.9 pc RPI INFLATION +2.5 pc HOUSE PRICES +1.7 pc BASE RATE 0.75 pc

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Compiled by Charles Legge

Bittersweet memories...

QUESTION Nestle is killing off Tooty Frooties — which other favourite childhood sweets have bitten the dust?

SPANGLES are often cited as Britain's most missed sweet. They were square, boiled sweets with a circular depression in the middle. They came in a variety of fruit-based flavours as well as some odd ones including orangeade, butterscotch and liquorice.

When Spangles were introduced to Britain by Mars in 1950, sweets were still on post-war rations. They were a big hit because they only needed one point from a ration book instead of the two required to buy most confectionery.

The cowboy Hopalong Cassidy (William Boyd) advertised Spangles with the catchphrase: 'Hoppy's favourite sweet.' They later had the slogan: 'The sweet way to go gay!' Despite their popularity, Spangles were discontinued in 1984.

A forgotten favourite was Fry's Five Centres. This was a segmented dark chocolate bar with five fondant flavours: orange, raspberry, lime, strawberry and pineapple. It was produced from 1934 to 1992.

Pacers, originally marketed as Opal Mints, were chewy spearmint sweets that were the sister product to Opal Fruits, today's Starburst. Originally, Pacers were white, but green stripes were later added. They disappeared in the mid-Eighties.

The Texan was a mighty chewy nougat and toffee bar. Discontinued in the Eighties, it was briefly reintroduced by Nestle in 2005 during a wave of confectionery related nostalgia.

I was one of the few people who loved Pyramint. This was a chunky triangle of chocolate filled with mint-flavoured fondant and tasted a bit like a warm mass of After Eights.

Justin Greer, Liverpool.

Picture: ALAMY

Going, going, gone: Tooty Frooties

QUESTION Did the twilight sleep treatment result in pain-free childbirth?

TWILIGHT sleep, using a combination of morphine and scopolamine, a medication used to treat motion sickness and post-operative nausea and vomiting, was a birthing regimen created in 1908 by German obstetricians Carl Guss and Bernhardt Kronin. The method did not eliminate labour pains, but obliterated their memory after birth.

It was a brief craze in the U.S. when a group of wealthy American women went to Germany for their deliveries.

Their subsequent account in McClure's magazine in 1914 'evoked more response from readers than any other that the magazine had ever published'.

The women established the National Twilight Sleep Association (NTSA), an influential lobby group connecting feminism with access to pain-free childbirth. It ran a populist campaign in the Press in which it characterised childbirth as 'torture'.

The medical profession was castigated for not embracing the German method. When physicians pointed out the procedure was risky and could interfere with a newborn's breathing, the NTSA complained of their 'callous indifference' to women in labour.

Despite its popularity, twilight sleep had a number of serious side-effects. It could induce 'excitement, restlessness, hallucinations and delirium' in mothers, sometimes leading to self-harm.

Hospital staff had to strap the women to the operating table using a birthing jacket, which was disturbingly similar to a straitjacket.

The twilight sleep movement was short-lived. By the start of World War I, German ideas were increasingly viewed with suspicion in the U.S. More devastating was the sad case of one of the NTSA's leading lights, Charlotte Carmody. After a successful twilight sleep birth in Freiburg, she spoke about her experience in churches and department stores across the U.S.

Tragically, in 1915 she died during a twilight sleep birth in a Brooklyn hospital. This high-profile casualty proved the end for the procedure in the U.S.

Phillipa Knowles, Oxford.

QUESTIONS

Q: Which steam engine holds the speed record: Clun Castle or the A4 Pacific Mallard?

Mike McCusker, Southsea, Hants.

Q: Does Volkswagen sell more sausages than cars?

Jim Cotton, Walsall, W. Mids.

Q: Have any UK plants or animals been collected to extinction?

Jane Plower, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

QUESTION What's the most unusual way in which a Lotto winner has chosen their numbers?

AMONG the many ways in which people choose numbers that they hope will bag them the jackpot, surely one of the most unusual would be to use the sequence of numbers of the previous lottery draw.

However, mathematically, any sequence of numbers has the same chance of being drawn as any other.

The draw in the Bulgarian lottery on Sunday, September 6, 2009, resulted in no winners matching the numbers 4, 15, 23, 24, 35 and 42. However, four days later on September 10, these numbers were drawn once more, though in a different order, and 18 people shared the jackpot of £84,600 — £4,700 each.

Lucky Dip tickets allocate the numbers randomly and there are complaints when there are sequential numbers.

Consider those people playing the American Florida Fantasy 5 lottery, which requires you to match five of 36 numbers. On Monday, March 21, 2011, the jackpot prize of just over $200,000 was shared by the 47 ticket holders that had chosen 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.

Though Camelot does not comment in any detail on the numbers chosen by players of the UK Lotto game, each draw sees hundreds of people choosing the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Given that there are so many lottery games across the world and humans are excellent at spotting apparently meaningful patterns in number sequences, these coincidences will continue to emerge amid the random selections, providing amusement and frustration, depending on what numbers you choose. Good luck!

Don Trower, Braintree, Essex.

■ IS there a question to which you have always wanted to know the answer? Or do you know the answer to a question raised here? Send your questions and answers to: Charles Legge, Answers To Correspondents, Scottish Daily Mail, 20 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 6DB, fax them to 0141 331 4739 or email them to charles.legge@dailymail.co.uk. A selection will be published but we are not able to enter into individual correspondence.

TODAY'S RECIPE: Chicken stuffed with herby mascarpone

QUICK and tasty supper. Serves: 2.

Ingredients

- 3tbsp mascarpone
- 1tbsp rosemary, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 2 chicken breasts, skin on
- 4 slices prosciutto
- Splash olive oil
- Juice of half a lemon

Method

1. Heat the oven to 200c/fan 180c/gas 6. Mix the mascarpone with the rosemary, garlic and some seasoning. Place the chicken breasts on a board and lift, but don't detach, the skin. Put a spoonful of the mascarpone mix under the skin of each breast. Wrap two of the slices of prosciutto around each breast, as neatly and tightly as you can, to keep the filling enclosed.

2. Heat a non-stick frying pan, add olive oil and quickly brown chicken on both sides. Transfer to a roasting tin to finish off in the oven for 15 to 20 minutes. Check that the chicken is cooked through.

3. Add the lemon juice to the roasting tin and stir over heat, scraping off any crispy bits. Spoon juices over chicken. This dish can be served with potatoes and green beans.

■ *RECIPE of the Day brought to you in association with BBC Good Food Magazine. Subscribe today and get your first five issues for £5 (direct debit). Visit buysubscriptions.com/goodfood and enter code GFDAILY19 or call 03330 162 124 and quote GFDAILY19.*

goodfood

BRIDGE MASTERCLASS

North
♠ 106
♥ AKQ965
♦ 5
♣ AJ82

S	N
1♣	2♥
3♣	4♣
4♦	?

WHAT would you bid next in the above sequence?

THIS is the next stage of yesterday's bidding sequence. Do not make the mistake of thinking that South is showing a diamond suit by his last bid.

It is possible that he has four cards in the suit because of the previous auction.

However, his bid is primarily showing a first round control, i.e. an ace or void, and you can safely assume it is the ♦A.

It is a useful point to remember that once a trump suit has been agreed, the bid of a new suit is showing controls, not distribution.

You should bid 4♥, a fairly simple selection in the control-showing process.

PETER DONOVAN

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PETERBOROUGH

email: pboro@dailymail.co.uk

Smart pencils made me look a little daft

THE article about schools asking for parents to make donations (Mail) made me smile.
While teaching in a local state secondary, I was informed at the beginning of the school year that there was no stationery budget allocated for my classes.
So, I went out and bought exercise books and matching red pencils, on which it appeared to me there was a lovely white squiggly design.
My pupils were delighted and my lessons a great success.
The pencils went down a storm and many other pupils asked if they could have one.
A few weeks later, I was called in to the head teacher's office. Was I to be commended for my initiative in supplying my own stationery and the success of my classes? No.
Had I read what was on the red pencils? No — it was just a pattern, wasn't it?
No, it was the complete times table in miniature — and all of the recent maths tests had had a 100 per cent pass rate!
Needless to say, my pencils were binned!
But I did keep one as a souvenir.

Mrs L. Dawson, Harlow, Essex.

Out of the mouths of babes

MY FOUR-YEAR-OLD grandson, Harris, walked into the bathroom just as I was applying my make-up.
When I made the finishing touch of blotting my lipstick, he stopped dead, looked at me strangely and asked: 'Granny, why are you kissing the toilet roll?'
What could I say?

C. Simpson, Lochgelly, Fife.

Anagram

Parliamentary mix-ups and fiendish betrayals
=
Hate, despair, as May and MPs finally ruin Brexit

Tony Crafter, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Wordy Wise

STARTPHONE — helps novice users.
WORDLESS PHONE — strictly for talkers.
FLAP PHONES — perfect for panics.
MOBIKE PHONES — leather-covered specials.
ROCKET PHONE — makes the fastest connections.
DATELLITE PHONE — love searchers' aid.

T. John Foster, Stafford.

Sign language

BIRD IS THE WORD: *Are they serving up imported crows from Turkey?*
D. Gilmour, Dunoon, Argyll.

One-line Philosophers

■ PEOPLE who turn to margarine for slimming have usually seen butter days.

Valerie Ashton, London N14.

■ WHY are there five syllables in the word monosyllabic?

A. Dean, Keighley, W. Yorks.

Your Jokes

I CAN see into the future — I have 2020 vision!

M. McCusker, Southsea, Hants.

Today's poem

MODERN LIVING

When leaving home and locking up,
I very often find
My neighbour doing just the same.
It seems we're of a mind
To go and do our shopping,
Or just have a change of scene.
And paths may cross again when we
Return from where we've been.

I give a cheery wave, a smile
'Hello there, how are you?
Yes, isn't it a lovely sky,
Almost cobalt blue.
The sun is bright, but oh, that wind
Is strong and icy-cold.
I don't think I will stay out long
...Must be getting old.

I'm sure that I'll be back by two,
So, some time after that,
Do pop round for a cuppa
And we'll have a proper chat.'
This conversation's in my head
It's what I'd like to say,
But reticence takes over, and
We each go on our way.

Tricia Sturgeon, Mundesley, Norfolk.

Follow-up

FOLLOWING tales of mishaps (Peterborough), I was reminded of the time I worked for social services.
As part of my routine, I would help people to bathe and make breakfast for them.
One morning, I arrived at a flat and assisted the resident.
Afterwards, I asked to sign her health folder to record what I had done. She said she didn't have one and had never been visited before, but would love to have me back.
Then the penny dropped: I was in the wrong flat. What a laugh my office had, and so did the lovely lady. She had thoroughly enjoyed herself.

K. Evans, Sunderland.

Picture that!

The Supervet: Noel Fitzpatrick, 8pm.

PUG MUGSHOT: *Looking hangdog after too many late-night operations at the Supervet surgery? Spotted in the TV guide of The Press and Journal by Neil D. Watson of Aberdeen.*

Nursery Rhyme For Our Time

Here we come gathering nuts in May,
Is a General Election on its way?
Or a Brexit deal for Theresa May,
After three years of coming and going?

Here we go round the mulberry bush,
With Westminster making it all such a fuss,
Will the Prime Minister give it just one more push,
And give us a break from not knowing?

Mrs Margaret Mattinson, Sherburn in Elmet, N. Yorks.

■ SEND your contributions to Peterborough, Scottish Daily Mail Letters, 20 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 6DB.

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LETTERS

Cathedral tragedy

THE tragic fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris reminds me of the blaze which destroyed Charles Rennie Mackintosh's School of Art in Glasgow — both buildings under renovation at the time.
I am sure the public will wonder how such fires could take hold so swiftly and go unnoticed until the flames have destroyed so much history.
Perhaps fire appliances should be permanently on hand at whatever cost to protect such a celebrated cathedral.

N BLACK, West Lothian.

Soft touch

WHY are the police allowing the Extinction Rebellion protesters to bring London to a standstill?
It would appear this group only needs to announce its intentions, and then the police merely warns the law-abiding public that their lives may be disrupted. Surely the planned protests count as civil disobedience and should be dealt with robustly by the authorities?
The protesters should carry out research before taking to the streets. Britain emits an insignificant amount of CO_2 compared to a country such as China.

P. SENIOR, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

Proper parenting

WHEN I was a schoolboy, my mum got out of bed every morning to prepare breakfast for my brothers and I. School was for learning and there were no breakfast clubs.
Before we went to primary school, we were not only potty-trained, but knew how to behave.
We grew up to be happy and well-adjusted people who have never asked anyone, let alone teachers, to change our own children's nappies.

BRIAN DEAN, Cardiff.

Go for it

I APPLAUD university graduates who achieve their career goals (Letters), but am often berated by my daughter for describing my progress in life with the disclaimer: 'Despite leaving school with nowt.'
I cite my aspirations and natural skills as the forces behind my relative success in academic and business certification 40 years after leaving school. Go for it, I say — with or without a university degree.

PHILIP CLARK, Chesham, Bucks.

Uneasy listening

DRIVETIME on Radio 2 with Simon Mayo used to be enjoyable easy listening, whether you were on your way home from work or preparing the evening meal.
We now have Sara Cox, who introduces the show with: 'Ladies and gennelmen, we 'ave some great music...' When one of her listeners phones in, they are greeted with: 'How are yer?'
Radio 2 listeners don't deserve this. How can people argue it is all right to not talk proper (Letters)?

D. N. HUGHES, Worthing, W. Sussex.

Life's a gas

IT doesn't surprise me that British Gas can pay its boss £2.4 million (Mail) when millions of people like me work for the firm for free.
We provide meter readings by email and pay over the internet. The meter reader has been made redundant.
British Gas should reduce our bills in recognition of the work we do on its behalf.

NORMAN HEATH, Ormskirk, Lancs.

CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF A LOVED ONE

HAVE you lost a relative or friend in recent months whose life you'd like to celebrate? Our column on Friday's letters page tells the stories of ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives. Email a 350-word tribute to: lives@dailymail.co.uk or write to: Extraordinary Lives, Scottish Daily Mail, 20 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 6DB. Please include a contact phone number.

Gardener's delight

I WAS intrigued by the hi-tech ways to grow tomatoes (Femail).
My office faced south and the sun beat through the windows from 9am until 5pm. After I said 'It's so hot I could grow tomatoes!', a colleague came in with two little plants.
They grew like triffids on the windowsill and I had to place them in big pots on the floor.
They nearly took over the office, but we all enjoyed a harvest of delicious toms.

SUSAN FIELD, Oxhey, Herts.

A charge too far

MAY I congratulate London mayor Sadiq Khan on his new ultra-low emission zone charges, which are on top of the congestion charge.
He failed to get Oxford Street changed into a bus-free zone, but he soldiers on. Our tourism trade will be dreadfully affected by the cost of driving in London, and many already struggling shops will close.
But that doesn't matter, because the empty shops can be turned into new homes in which people will have to live on benefits because there is no longer any work for them in the area. And that is called politics.

Mrs M. DUBOU, London NW11.

Advice to MPs

SOME notes for all politicians: If you don't want the answer, don't ask the question. In a two-horse race, there is one winner and one loser. Get over it. They won't re-run the Masters because Tiger Woods won by only one shot.
You were elected based on your manifesto — I suggest you go and read it. You were chosen to represent the people of this country. We said we want to leave the EU; your job is to make that happen. Your personal views should be put to one side.
Just get on with it, please.

Miss A. L. MENZIES, Felpham, W. Sussex.

Breaking Brexit

THE EU officials view with disbelief the British MPs taking a holiday at this critical time – in view of the Brexit chaos, the British public probably have some emotions in regard to this matter as well.

VINCENT SAUNDERS, Troon, Ayrshire.

Drowning in debt

FROM the day devolution became a reality, the SNP has beat the drum incessantly for separation of Scotland from the rest of the UK, and we have become economically, socially, educationally, all the poorer.
This state of affairs seems either to be ignored by the Nationalists or, frankly, they do not care.
We are debt-ridden and we are advised the cost of existing projects

The Mail has Scotland's liveliest letters page and we're always seeking fresh contributions. Something to say? Get in touch via our new email address

scotletters@dailymail.co.uk

Oh, Miss Jones… they've left us off the list of TV greats

Picture: ITV

Genius: Frances de la Tour and Leonard Rossiter in Rising Damp

IN the list of the all-time greatest British comedy sitcoms (Mail), I was astounded no mention was made of the fabulous Rising Damp.
The 28 episodes of this ITV show, written by Eric Chappell and aired between 1974 and 1978, were recorded at Yorkshire Television in Leeds.
It's still hilarious today, albeit not as politically correct in these modern times as one would hope for.
The starring role went to the genius of comic timing, Leonard Rossiter. His interpretation of the landlord of not so salubrious bedsits was a joy to behold. Despite the peeling wallpaper and tacky furniture, Rigsby thought his rooms were on a par with the Hilton. In his battered cardigans and trousers shiny with age, he was in his element imparting his knowledge on any given subject, particularly his expertise with the female gender, to the hapless Alan (Richard Beckinsale). Another male tenant Philip (Don Warrington) was well-educated and relished in winding up his landlord. Rigsby tried hard to win the heart of his tenant Miss Jones (Frances de la Tour), but with no luck. The casting was fabulous, the background research was meticulous and the writing was some of the best on TV, then and now. Even Rigsby's cat Vienna had a starring role. It was cleverly written and acted, providing us with a useful piece of social history. It is still my favourite comedy show.

Mrs JANET E. LITTLEWOOD, Redditch, Worcs.

I WAS astonished by the omission of Steptoe And Son from the Top 20 sitcoms list. I would have it in equal first place with Fawlty Towers. I would also make a case for The Liver Birds, Bread, Hancock's Half Hour, Till Death Us Do Part, One Foot In The Grave, Citizen Smith, Last Of The Summer Wine, Open All Hours, Rising Damp, On The Buses and The Army Game. Can I assume that most of the panel of judges have never seen anything in black and white?

ALAN SMITH, Barnstaple, Devon.

THE glaring omission from the list of top sitcoms is Hancock's Half Hour. Its writers Ray Galton and Alan Simpson virtually invented the sitcom.

CLIVE WHICHELOW, London SW19.

Straight to the POINT

■ **I'M CONFUSED about which candidate to vote for in the European elections now we've adopted the second-past-the-post system.**
RICHARD COLLINS, Peterborough, Cambs.

■ **THE issue of whether or not we leave the EU pales into insignificance compared to the prospect of Darcey leaving Strictly.**
PETER MALLER, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon.

■ **DEFINITION of infinity: Brexit.**
D. ARNOTT, Taunton, Devon.

■ **ZOE BALL knows only one word — amazing. Her radio show most certainly isn't.**
HELEN PENNEY, Longborough, Glos.

■ **WITH MPs on holiday it's a good time to change the locks on the Houses of Parliament.**
PETE DICKERSON, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

■ **LIKE Joan Collins, a vanity mirror caused a fire in my home. Concave mirrors should be sold with a warning sticker.**
MICHAEL J. PRITCHARD, Penn, Bucks.

■ **DAVID LAMMY proves there is no shortage of empty vessels that make the most noise in the Labour Party.**
JOHN EVANS, Wokingham, Berks.

■ **CALL someone a horse? Neigh!**
E. BARNES, Birmingham.

■ **BREXIT extended until October 31. Do we collect £200 when passing Go?**
MUNRO STARR, Quorn, Leics.

■ **MY BREXIT song (Letters) is Send In The Clowns. Oh, sorry, they are already in the House of Commons.**
B. McMAHON, Newton Abbot, Devon.

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(Mail) has created a Scotland now run on a 'credit card', incurring debts to the tune of £8.35billion over 30 years for projects costing £2.88billion.
This is not good housekeeping and has resulted in the country paying £6million interest per day.
This has all the hallmarks of spiralling out of control.
Incidentally, the SNP waxes lyrical about trade with the European Union, yet omits to mention that 79 per cent of our trade is with the rest of the UK, and guaranteed.

Name and address supplied.

EU down the pan

DO all those youngsters and Remainers who want to stay in the EU realise Europe is going down the pan?
The average unemployment rate is twice that of the UK. In France, unemployment among under-25s is double the UK's figure, and three times or more in Spain, Italy and Greece.

ALEXANDER MORGAN, Wymondham, Norfolk.

THE economy is improving and things are looking good. MPs have been tied up in Brexit for several months and have not worried about the rest of the issues facing the country. So why do we need to pay them so much when we seem to run ourselves?

ERIC ROBERTS, Newquay, Cornwall.

Referendum result

IN his latest BBC Radio Scotland interview, Brexit Minister Mike Russell was crystal clear when pressed on the SNP's attitude to a future EU referendum result.
It is just the same as its view of Scottish independence referendums – namely, Nationalists will only accept the result if it is what they wanted. Otherwise, they will just keep agitating for more referendums.

KEITH HOWELL, West Linton, Peeblesshire.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

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Printerpix

DEBATE: Should Shamima Begum be granted legal aid?

HOW disgusting that Shamima Begum has been granted legal aid to challenge the removal of her citizenship (Mail). It is astonishing taxpayers have to fund such cases, with solicitors the beneficiaries. We're told Ms Begum's case is complex — which I challenge — and could take years to resolve. Legal aid is refused to ordinary families, but it seems there is always enough to defend terrorists. The solicitors who specialise in these cases must be rubbing their hands as the gravy train rolls on.

IAN VERDON, Watford, Herts.

I HOPE no one is fooled by the claim Ms Begum is getting money to fight her case, as it is the ambulance-chasing lawyers who will get the cash.

H. McGEE, Bognor Regis, W. Sussex.

THOSE who have granted legal aid to Ms Begum should be made to pay it from their own pockets.

D. W. G. HANNS, Fareham, Hants.

GIVE Ms Begum back her passport. The courts will eventually allow this, so act now and stop a fortune in fees going to Yuman Rites shysters.

MARTIN SHARP, London SE2.

WHETHER or not Shamima Begum should get legal aid is a question loaded for a heavy answer. But the truth is, systems in place in the UK designed to support freedom and democracy are abused by claimants and judiciary who don't cry foul but shout 'human rights'. Nothing is ever straightforward, but when it is cloaked in secrecy, the question must be asked: 'Why?' For chaos makes money, and when money is involved anything can happen. Then the truth is lost — all because the power of the coin sets a precedent.

ARCHIE MacKINNON, Glasgow.

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CRITICS' CHOICE

MODERN SHOPPING
Supermarket Secrets, 8pm, BBC1

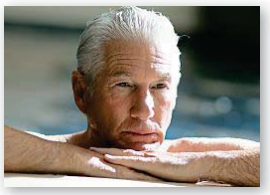
JUST like TV, our shopping is increasingly available 'on demand'. This episode looks at how retailers are responding to this trend. From the robots picking our online orders to the farm growing 300 million lettuces a year to meet our needs for year-round salad. Also, how checkout queues could be a thing of the past.

VIEW FROM ABOVE
Earth From Space, 11.05pm, BBC1

THIS stunning new series provides an awe-inspiring new perspective on the natural world — and the threats it faces. Satellite cameras give conservationists access to some of the world's most remote, hostile environments. From Africa to Antarctica, clues spotted from space lead to extraordinary discoveries.

POWER BROKER
MotherFatherSon, 9pm, BBC2

THE Prime Minister's son is dead and the country is tearing itself apart as we reach the penultimate part of Tom Rob Smith's slow-burning drama. And, at the centre of it all is manipulative media mogul Max (Richard Gere, pictured), who is under attack from all sides, but showing no signs of cracking just yet.



WHAT'S IN STORE?
Inside John Lewis: Profits & Problems, 9pm, Ch5

WHILE many other High Street retailers have faltered in recent years, John Lewis has managed to buck the trend, buoyed by its reputation for customer service. This episode explores the firm's 150-year history, goes behind the scenes of its flagship London store on Oxford Street, and asks what the future holds for the company and its loyal partners.

PICK OF THE DAY
CHIMERICA, 9PM, CH4

THIS gripping four-part thriller opens in 1989 in Beijing, China, where a plucky American teen captures images of the protests in Tiananmen Square — and the famous scene of a lone man defying the tanks that rolled towards him. Almost three decades later, that plucky American teen is now a jaded photojournalist (Alessandro Nivola, pictured), whose career is in tatters. Can finding the 'Tank Man' alive save his reputation? Based on a play by Lucy Kirkwood, and with Sophie Okonedo and F. Murray Abraham among the supporting cast, this story of personal redemption plays out on a grand, international political stage.

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast** (HD)
9.15 **Animal Park Easter Special** (R,HD)
10.00 **Homes Under the Hammer** (R,HD) Properties about to be auctioned in Croydon, Derby and Cumbria.
11.00 **The Sheriffs Are Coming** (R,HD) The sheriffs visit an insurance company that failed to pay out.
11.45 **Close Calls: On Camera** (HD) A mother's life hangs in the balance after she suffers a cardiac arrest.
12.15 **Bargain Hunt** (AD,R,HD) From Newbury Racecourse in Berkshire.
1.00 **BBC News at One;** Weather (HD)
1.30 **Reporting Scotland;** Weather
1.45 **Doctors** (AD,HD) Karen finds herself taking on more than expected.
2.15 **Curiosity** (HD) Julia and Kevin from Cambridgeshire take on Edana and Jane from Yorkshire.
3.00 **Escape to the Country** (AD,R,HD) A couple looking for their ideal rural retreat in the East Midlands.
3.45 **Home Is Where the Art Is** (AD,HD) Nick Knowles challenges three artists in Cheshire to create a piece for a mystery buyer.
4.30 **The Repair Shop** (HD) The team restore a hand-carved model Spitfire and a leather pouffe.
5.15 **Pointless** (HD) Quiz show.
6.00 **BBC News at Six;** Weather (HD)
6.30 **Reporting Scotland;** Weather

7 PM
7.00 **The One Show** (HD) Matt Baker and Alex Jones host the magazine show, with stories of interest from around the UK, plus celebrity guests in the studio.

8 PM
8.00 PICK **Supermarket Secrets** (AD,HD) Examining how supermarkets are fighting to bring consumers their food on demand. See Critics' Choice.

9 PM
9.00 **Scotland from the Sky** New series. Jamie Crawford takes to the skies to explore Scotland's cities, coasts and countryside, using aerial images to uncover fascinating stories from Scotland's past.

10 PM
10.00 **BBC News at Ten** (HD)
10.25 **Reporting Scotland** (Followed by Weather) (Followed by National Lottery Update)
10.35 **Scot Squad** (AD,R) Chat show host Lorraine Kelly discovers no one is above the law.

11 PM
11.05 PICK **Earth from Space** (AD,HD) New series. Cameras in space tell stories of life on our planet from a brand-new perspective. See Critics' Choice.

12 MNT
12.05 **Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star** (HD) The make-up artists battle for a place in the final. **1.05** A Question of Sport (R,HD) A round-up of the best moments from the latest series. **1.35** Weather for the Week Ahead (HD) **1.40** BBC News (HD)

BBC2

6.30 **The Repair Shop** (R,HD)
7.15 **Home Is Where the Art Is** (R,HD)
8.00 **Mary Berry's Quick Cooking** (AD,BSL,R) Mary helps the team in the galley of HMS Defender.
8.30 **Gardeners' World** (BSL,R)
9.00 **BBC News at 9** (HD)
10.00 **Victoria Derbyshire** (HD)
11.00 **BBC Newsroom Live** (HD)
1.00 **The Boss** (R,HD) Quiz show.
1.45 **Back in Time for Dinner** (AD,R,HD) The Robshaws get to grips with the home life of the Seventies.
2.45 **Back in Time for Dinner** (AD,R,HD) The family learn about the culinary treats and trends of the Eighties.
3.45 **The Hairy Builder** (AD,R,HD) Dave Myers helps to restore an art deco monastery in North Yorkshire.
4.15 **The Hairy Builder** (AD,R,HD) Dave Myers visits the 18th-century Friars Mill in Leicestershire.
4.45 **Eggheads** (R,HD) Quiz show, hosted by Jeremy Vine.
5.15 **Flog It!** (R,HD) The team visit Gloucester Cathedral.
6.00 **Richard Osman's House of Games** (R,HD) Beattie Edmondson, Amol Rajan, Gaby Roslin and Hugh Dennis test their general knowledge skills.
6.30 **Island Medics** (R,HD) A look behind the scenes at the Gilbert Bain Hospital in Lerwick.

7 PM
7.00 **Antiques Road Trip** (HD) Antiques experts travel around the UK searching for treasures and competing to make the most money at auction.

8 PM
8.00 **Great British Menu** (HD) Gordon Jones, Lorna McNee and Ben Reade make their way to the kitchen for the Scotland heats, preparing their starters and fish courses.

9 PM
9.00 PICK **MotherFatherSon** (AD,HD) Kathryn must decide whether to make a huge sacrifice for the sake of exposing the truth. See Critics' Choice.

10 PM
10.00 **Island of Dreams** (R,HD) One-off comedy, starring Harry Enfield as Richard Branson, with Samantha Spiro, Morgana Robinson, Al Murray and Jamie Demetriou.
10.30 **Newsnight** (HD) (Followed by Weather)

11 PM
11.15 **Stephen: The Murder That Changed a Nation** (AD,R,HD) Documentary examining the 1993 death of Stephen Lawrence, beginning with a look at events leading up to his murder and the police investigation that followed.

12 MNT
12.15 **DIY SOS: The Big Build** (AD,BSL,R,HD) The team travel to Hessle, East Yorkshire, to help a man left paralysed due to a spinal cord injury. **1.15** Race Across the World (AD,BSL,R,HD) The teams head to Baku in Azerbaijan. **2.15** This Is BBC2

STV

6.00 **Good Morning Britain** (HD)
8.30 **Lorraine** (HD) Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news.
9.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show** (R,HD) Guests air their differences.
10.30 **This Morning** (HD) Another mix of celebrity chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather.
12.30 **Loose Women** (HD) Another helping of topical studio discussion from a female perspective, featuring celebrity interviews.
1.29 **STV Appeal: Get Involved** (HD)
1.30 **News;** Weather (HD)
1.55 **STV News;** Weather (HD)
2.00 **Judge Rinder** (HD) Cameras follow criminal barrister Robert Rinder as he takes on real-life cases in a studio courtroom.
3.00 **Tenable** (R,HD) A team of five family members from Northumberland answer questions about top-ten lists from the realms of pop culture and general knowledge. Quiz, hosted by Warwick Davis; STV Weather
4.00 **Tipping Point** (HD) Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard.
5.00 **The Chase** (HD) Norman, Tom, Elaine and Nancy work as a team to take on quiz genius the Chaser.
6.00 **STV News at Six;** Weather (HD)
6.30 **News;** Weather (HD)

7 PM
7.00 **Emmerdale** (AD,HD) Priya feels pushed out by Aiesha, and Harriet makes a disturbing discovery.
7.30 **Coronation Street** (AD,HD) Gary meets a familiar face on his first day collecting debts.

8 PM
8.00 **Britain's Brightest Family** (HD) Two families compete in the third round of the quarter-finals.
8.30 **Coronation Street** (AD,HD) Sarah fears Gary will be implicated in the roof sabotage.

9 PM
9.00 **The Bay** (AD,HD) A confession to Lisa shines a possible new light on Dylan's killer. Meanwhile, Abbie has a terrifying experience with some local addicts.

10 PM
10.00 **News** (HD) (Followed by Weather)
10.30 **STV News** (HD) (Followed by Weather)
10.40 **Scotland Tonight** Analysis of the day's main news stories. (Followed by Weather)

11 PM
11.09 **STV Appeal: Get Involved** (HD)
11.10 **La Liga Highlights** (HD) A round-up of the latest matches in the Spanish top flight, including Huesca v Barcelona, Atletico Madrid v Celta Vigo and Leganes v Real Madrid.

12 MNT
12.10 **The Cruise: Sailing the Caribbean** (AD,R,HD) Bar manager Lilia has a big beach party to set up. **12.35** Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport (AD,R,HD) Terminal 5 receives a very special visitor. **1.00** ITV Nightscreen (HD) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (BSL,R,HD)

CHANNEL 4

6.25 **Cheers** (R,HD)
6.55 **Cheers** (R,HD)
7.20 **Cheers** (R,HD)
7.45 **Frasier** (R)
8.10 **Frasier** (R)
8.40 **Frasier** (R)
9.10 **Everybody Loves Raymond** (R)
9.40 **Everybody Loves Raymond** (R)
10.10 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (R) An Irish pub in New York.
11.05 **Car SOS** (AD,R,HD)
12.00 **Channel 4 News Summary** (HD)
12.05 **Come Dine with Me** (R,HD)
1.05 **Escape to the Chateau: DIY** (AD,R,HD) Paul and Karen rent out their chateau as a holiday gite.
2.10 **Countdown** (HD) With Paul Zenon.
3.00 **A Place in the Sun** (R,HD) Jonnie Irwin helps a Hull man to find his dream property in Huelva, Spain.
4.00 **A New Life in the Sun** (HD) Inspectors descend on a Shropshire family's treehouse in France.
5.00 **Four in a Bed** (HD) The third visit of the week takes place at The Black Boy Hotel in Sudbury.
5.30 **Extreme Cake Makers** (HD) Bakers Phil and Christine take on a very unusual commission.
6.00 **The Simpsons** (AD,R) Lisa gets her own television show.
6.30 **Hollyoaks** (AD,R,HD) Juliet plants doubts in Brooke's mind.

7 PM
7.00 **Channel 4 News** (HD)

8 PM
8.00 **Location, Location, Location** (HD) New series. Kirstie Allsopp helps Rachael and Mark in Woking to search for a new home, while Phil heads to Guildford to assist Indu and Jason in their property search.

9 PM
9.00 PICK **Chimerica** (AD,HD) New series. Drama about a photojournalist accused of doctoring one of his award-winning photographs. See Pick of the Day.

10 PM
10.00 **Gogglebox** (AD,R,HD) Capturing the households' instant reactions to programmes including *Our Planet*, *This Morning*, *Britain's Got Talent*, *Line of Duty*, *Blind Date* and *24 Hours in Police Custody*.

11 PM
11.05 **First Dates** (AD,R,HD) Return of the restaurant-based dating show, hosted by Fred Sirieix. Participants include energetic 32-year-old owl sanctuary volunteer Krystal.

12 MNT
12.10 FILM CHOICE **The Great British School Swap** (AD,R,HD) **1.05** FILM: Love, Rosie (2014) (15) ◆ (AD,BSL,HD) See Critics' Choice. **2.50** Coast vs Country (R,HD) **3.45** French Collection (R,HD) **4.35** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures (R,HD) **4.55** The £100k Drop (R,HD) **5.50** Countdown (R,HD)

(R) Repeat. (HD) High Definition. (AD) Audio Description. (b/w) Not in colour. (BSL) British Sign Language.

■ Family viewing ● Generally suitable for all ◆ Caution recommended

FILM CHOICES

Murder, She Baked: Just Desserts, 2.20pm, Ch5

WHO knew baking could be such a dangerous business? During the semi-finals of the Eden Lake Bake-Off, one of the judges is bumped off, leaving professional baker and amateur sleuth Hannah (Alison Sweeney) with another mystery to chew on.

Love, Rosie, 1.05am, Ch4

BRITISH romcom starring Lily Collins (pictured) and Sam Claflin as best friends Rosie and Alex, who are clearly meant for each other, but who take their time — virtually a lifetime, in fact — to realise it. As the missed opportunities to get together pile up, they both become entangled with other people.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig (R) **6.05** Peppa Pig (R) **6.10** Meet the Hedgehogs (R,HD) **6.15** Wissper (R,HD) **6.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective (R,HD) **6.45** Fireman Sam (R,HD) **6.55** Thomas & Friends (R,HD) **7.05** Shane the Chef (R,HD) **7.20** Peppa Pig (R) **7.30** Peppa Pig (R,HD) **7.35** Top Wing (R,HD) **7.55** Paw Patrol (R,HD) **8.05** Digby Dragon (HD) **8.20** Little Princess (R) **8.35** Shimmer and Shine (R,HD) **8.55** Floogals (R,HD) **9.10** Sunny Bunnies (R,HD)

9.15 Jeremy Vine (HD)

11.15 Traffic Cops (R,HD)

12.10 5 News Lunchtime (R,HD)

12.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R,HD) A phone shop has a huge debt.

1.10 Access (HD)

1.15 Home and Away (AD,HD)

1.45 Neighbours (AD,HD)

2.20 Murder, She Baked: Just Desserts (2017) (PG) ● (HD) Mystery, starring Alison Sweeney and Barbara Niven. See Critics' Choice. FILM CHOICE

4.00 Friends (R,HD)

4.30 Friends (R,HD)

5.00 5 News (HD)

5.30 Neighbours (AD,R,HD) Mark launches an investigation into the identity of the driver who almost killed Susan and Imogen.

6.00 Home and Away (AD,R,HD) Dean breaks into the mailbox to retrieve the letter.

6.30 5 News Tonight (HD)

7.00 Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh (R,HD) Alan visits Cragside, a Victorian estate in Northumberland and the most innovative property in the National Trust's collection. (Followed by 5 News Update)

8.00 GPs: Behind Closed Doors (AD,HD) Dr Akbani helps two daughters to deal with a potentially life-threatening hereditary illness, and another patient is treated for severe back pain. (Followed by 5 News Update)

9.00 Inside John Lewis: Profits & Problems (HD) Revealing documentary going behind the scenes of the British institution. See Critics' Choice. PICK

10.00 James Bulger: The New Revelations (R,HD) Looking at fresh evidence in the case of the toddler who was kidnapped in 1993 from a shopping centre and murdered by ten-year-olds Robert Thompson and Jon Venables.

11.05 Britain's Cocaine Epidemic (R,HD) Ordinary people who use or supply cocaine, including students ordering the drug over the internet and members of the Eighties party generation who continue to use.

12.05 Police Interceptors (R,HD) **1.00** Teleshopping (HD) **3.00** Access (HD) **3.10** Wentworth Prison (AD,R,HD) **4.00** Cruising with Jane McDonald (BSL,R,HD) **4.45** House Doctor (BSL,R) **5.10** Great Artists (BSL,R) **5.35** Wildlife SOS (BSL,R)

▲ Particularly liable to offend

Who's the killer in a dotty thriller: Dr Vampire or the Bride of Dracula?

CHRISTOPHER STEVENS
LAST NIGHT'S TV

Trust Me ★★★☆☆ The Great British School Swap ☆☆☆☆☆

MAYBE it's springtime madness, or maybe the Brexit shambles has driven the entire country round the twist, but most of the current crop of drama is simply nuts.

Kate Beckinsale is running around central Africa, dodging exploding cars in The Widow as she searches for a husband who likes to do his travelling inside a wooden crate. Morven Christie is a policewoman in The Bay, so busy having drunken quickies with murder suspects that she can't see her own children are feral delinquents.

But these daft thrillers are positively sane, compared to the delirium of **Trust Me** (BBC1) — a hospital whodunit starring John Hannah as a consultant so creepy that he ought to be wearing a silk cape and fangs.

Alfred Enoch, who grew up playing a student wizard in the background of the Harry Potter movies, is Corporal Jamie McCain. He's been flown home after an ambush Somewhere Foreign wiped out his platoon and left him paralysed.

Inevitably, a murder mystery starring a bedbound sleuth is going to be a bit static, but that wasn't a problem for Michael Gambon in The Singing Detective.

Sadly, there's no classic big band soundtrack here, just a lot of ominous electronic music to accompany Jamie's flashbacks and nightmares.

GRITTY VIEWING OF THE NIGHT: Ben Fogle was in Peru on New Lives In The Wild (C5), at a place called Paracas which means 'raining sand'. The stuff got everywhere — in food, bedding, hair, the lot. By the look on Ben's face, it was in his undies too.

In between bedside interrogations by the military police, Jamie is pestered by fellow inmate Danny, a conspiracy theorist.

Danny is convinced that one of the medical staff is murdering patients. He has no evidence for this, except that everyone keeps dying. You really can't miss it, because the nurses keep carting huge plastic bodybags away.

Who is the killer? Dr Vampire? His lover, Nurse Bride of Dracula (Ashley Jensen)? Or troubled junior medic Dr Pillpopper (Katie Clarkson-Hill)? Surely it's not her boyfriend, long-suffering Kind McHunky (Richard Rankin)?

Whoever it is, they've got it in for wheelchair-user Danny. He's only in hospital while his flat is being redecorated. Tragically, before the second coat of emulsion is dry, Danny has been stuffed into a body bag.

Realising he was safer being shot at, Jamie has to get out of bed. This involves stabbing himself in the leg, to get an adrenaline rush, and then hauling himself round the ward on his elbows. Whether that makes any medical sense, I have no idea (though I have my suspicions) — but I'm quite sure it's going to get a lot madder over the next three episodes.

At least it was harmless fun. That can't be said of the venal **Great British School Swap** (C4), a hateful exercise in stirring up bigotry. Under the pretence of copying a U.S. experiment, the producers sent 15 white pupils from Tamworth to a school in nearby Birmingham, and put them in a classroom with 15 pupils from Asian backgrounds. Then they were encouraged to treat each other like dangerous alien species.

In case the heavily scripted set-ups didn't provoke enough controversy, the 13-year-olds were given vile exercises such as compiling lists of racist insults and stereotypes. Their parents were encouraged to get in on the act too.

To claim that Britain has ever been racially segregated, or that some kind of apartheid operates in the West Midlands, is as vicious as it is divisive and dishonest.

As if this wasn't manipulative enough, Channel 4 executives included a child (just 13, remember) called Lucas, who identified as a transgender female. The Asian children were encouraged to bait Lucas mercilessly, while the white pupils rolled their eyes.

The whole business was irresponsible, nasty-minded, cruel, pointless and shameful.

BBC1 Regions

As BBC1 Scotland except: **England: 1.30pm** BBC Regional News. **6.30** BBC Regional News. **6.55** Party Election Broadcast. **9.00** Earth from Space. **10.25** BBC Regional News. **10.35** Glow Up. **11.35** A Question of Sport. **12.05am** Celebrity Painting Challenge. **1.05** Weather. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC Scotland

12noon BBC Newsroom Live. **1.00** The Boss. **1.45** Back in Time for Dinner. **2.45** Back in Time for Dinner. **3.45** The Hairy Builder. **4.15** The Hairy Builder. **4.45** Eggheads. **5.15** Flog It! **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. **6.30** Island Medics. **7.00** WonderBall. **7.30** Rewind 1990s. **8.00** Home of the Year. **8.30** Island Medics. **9.00** The Nine. **10.00** FILM: Moon Dogs (2016) (15). **11.30** The Edit. **11.45** Gasping.

Border

1.55pm News Border. **6.00** Lookaround. **10.30** News Border. **10.45** Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport. **12.10am** British Touring Car Championship. **1.25** Jackpot247. **3.00** Lethal Weapon. **3.45** Nightscreen.

Easter SALE

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Follow us on:

Satellite choice

ONE-DAY CRICKET
Kent v Hampshire, 12.30pm, Sky Cricket & Main Event

COVERAGE of the One Day Cup starts with a rerun of 2018's final, when Rilee Rossouw's 125 helped Hampshire to the title.

FAIRYTALE FANTASY
Lu Over The Wall, 3.20pm, Sky Premiere

JAPANESE animation about a young boy called Kai who befriends Lu, a 'ningyo' or mermaid. Lu joins his band and helps him to find his feet in warm, fluffy style.

FOOTBALL
Manchester City v Tottenham Hotspur, 7pm, BT Sport 2

IN THE second of three meetings between the sides in 11 days, Spurs take a 1-0 advantage to the Etihad as they try to reach their first Champions League semi-final. Porto v Liverpool is on BT Sport 3.

FUNNY FILM
The Festival, Amazon Prime

THE Inbetweeners' Joe Thomas stars in a knockabout comedy that has the same tone as the hit sitcom and follows Nick (Thomas) to a festival as he tries to get over a break-up.

ON THE STREETS
Rich Kids Go Homeless, 9pm, 5Star

SELF-MADE man Kieren is 23 and is determined to prove that all the homeless need to get off the streets is a bit of entrepreneurial zeal. In this new series, he spends three nights sleeping rough in London, but his money-making plans don't survive his first contact with reality.

GOOD AS NEW
Salvage Hunters: The Restorers, 9pm, Quest

A NEW series with Drew Pritchard and the experts who restore the curios he finds. Here, master leather worker Martin endeavours to restore a Victorian dentist's chair, which looks like something out of a horror film but could fetch four times what Drew paid for it (£500) after a restoration.

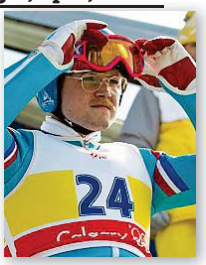
HISTORIC ENCOUNTER
Urban Myths, 9pm, Sky Arts

SKY'S comedy has a lot of fun dramatising the time Donald Trump invited the artist Andy Warhol to judge a cheerleading contest. Anthony Atamanuik is merciless in his portrayal of Trump, who disgusts all around him — but only Warhol (Jack McBrayer, pictured below with Atamanuik) calls the tycoon out on his behaviour.

UFO SECRETS
Project Blue Book, 9pm, Syfy

IN THIS atmospheric drama set at the height of the Cold War, Aidan Gillen is scientist Dr J. Allen Hynek, brought in to debunk UFO sightings. In episode four, a bizarre UFO encounter with an airliner leads Hynek to a top-secret programme involving former Nazi scientists.

FREEVIEW MOVIE
Eddie The Eagle, 9pm, Film4



FACT-BASED underdog tale starring Taron Egerton (pictured) as Michael 'Eddie the Eagle' Edwards, who is determined to qualify as a ski jumper for the 1988 Olympic Games. The fact that he has limited cash, few opportunities to practise and isn't very good certainly won't hold him back.

POLITICS COMEDY
Veep, 10.10pm, Sky Atlantic

NO ONE is less well-qualified for the White House than the bone-headed Jonah, which is why, by the end of this brutal U.S. political satire, he may well end up as President. Attempting to report on the race is Mike McClintock, now trying to be down with the kids at Buzzfeed.

Time	BBC 4	E4	ITV2
	9	28	6
7.00pm	**Beyond 100 Days** News and analysis from Washington DC and London; Weather	**Hollyoaks** Sienna plans to trick Laurie into confessing by secretly recording him	**6.00 Take Me Out** A Michael Jackson impersonator enters the 'love lift'
7.30pm	**Secrets of Bones** Exploring how vertebrates capture and devour their food	**Speechless** JJ is pressured into going on a date with a new student at school	**You've Been Framed! Gold** A building crushes a sports car
8.00pm	**Kolkata with Sue Perkins** The presenter explores life in the diverse 21st-century megacity formerly known as Calcutta	**The Goldbergs** Erica, Barry and Adam's distant relative Gleb visits from Russia	**You've Been Framed! Gold** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including a mustard-swallowing challenge that backfires
8.30pm		**Schooled** Principal Glascott enlists the help of Coach Mellor to lay down the law	
9.00pm	**Julius Caesar Revealed** Mary Beard explores the life, reign and legacy of the Roman politician, revealing how his influence is still shaping people's everyday lives	**Tattoo Fixers: Extreme** Pash gets rid of biker Pete's offensive ink, and Alice creates an original tattoo for heart transplant patient Brad	**American Pie (1999,15)** Four teenage boys make a pact to lose their virginity before the high-school prom, but cause huge embarrassment in the process. Comedy, with Jason Biggs, Eugene Levy, Shannon Elizabeth, Alyson Hannigan and Chris Klein. Includes FYI Daily
9.30pm			
10.00pm	**The Normans** Professor Robert Bartlett explores the expansion and unchecked ambition of the Norman empire	**First Dates Hotel** Fitness fanatic Bernard, 87, sits down for a meal with septuagenarian ballroom dancer Ruth	
10.30pm			
11.00pm	**Blazes and Brigades: The Story of the Fire Service** Documentary looking back on nearly two centuries of British firefighting (To 12.00)	**11.05 The Hangover Games** A group of friends from Barrow compete	**11.05 Family Guy** Peter volunteers for the police force
11.30pm		**11.40 The Big Bang Theory** Howard and Raj have a kite competition (To 12.05)	**Family Guy** Peter's mother and father get a divorce (To 12.00)

A-Z SATELLITE LISTINGS

ALIBI
Sky 132 Virgin 126

12noon Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries. **1.00** Motive. **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries. **4.00** Rizzoli & Isles. **5.00** Rush. **6.00** Motive. **7.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries. **8.00** Murdoch Mysteries. **9.00** Ms Fisher's Modern Murder Mysteries. **10.00** The Coroner. **11.00** New Tricks.

ANIMAL PLANET
Sky 162 Virgin 256

12noon Wildest Europe. **1.00** Alaskan Bush People. **2.00** Animal Cops Houston. **3.00** Pit Bulls & Parolees. **4.00** Insane Pools: Off the Deep End. **5.00** Crocodile Hunter. **6.00** Sharks v Dolphins: Face Off. **7.00** Wildest Latin America. **8.00** Alaskan Bush People. **9.00** Extinct or Alive. **10.00** Animal Cops Houston. **11.00** Pit Bulls & Parolees.

BBC ALBA
Sky 169 Virgin 161

7.00am Alba Today. **5.00pm** Tree Fu Tom. **5.20** Gudrun — A' Bhanaphrionnsa Lochlannach. **5.30** Igam Ogam. **5.40** Na Floogals. **5.50** Stoiridh. **6.00** Dragonan — Reis chun an iomaill. **6.25** An Rud As Fhearr Leam. **6.35** Aithne air Ainmhidhean. **7.00** Beartas nan Daoine. **7.30** Speaking Our Language. **7.55** Earrann Eachdraidh. **8.00** An La. **8.30** Dealbhan Fraoich. **9.00** Iul a' Chiuil. **10.00** Fonn Fonn Fonn. **10.30** Port. **11.00** Opry le Daniel. **11.50** Dhan Uisge.

BT SPORT 1
Sky 413

11.15am MotoGP. **1.15pm** MotoGP Chequered Flag. **2.15** IPL. **3.15** Live IPL. Sunrisers Hyderabad v Chennai Super Kings. **7.30** BT Sport Reload. **8.00** Live MLB. Brewers v Cardinals. **11.00** Rugby Tonight On Tour. **11.30** UFC Connected.

BT SPORT 2
Sky 414

12noon The Big Match Revisited. **2.00** Premier League Reload. **2.15** Goals Reload. **2.30** Premiership Rugby Highlights. **5.30** MotoGP. **6.00** Bundesliga: Behind The Team. **6.30** Premier League World. **7.00** Live UEFA Champions League. **10.30** Live UEFA Champions League Highlights. **11.30** No Filter Boxing.

BT SPORT 3
Sky 417

12noon UEFA Champions League. **2.00** UEFA Europa League Magazine. **2.30** Bundesliga Highlights. **3.30** Premier League Reload. **3.45** Premier League. **5.15** UEFA Champions League. **6.15** UEFA Champions League. **7.15** Live UEFA Champions League. Porto v Liverpool. **10.30** BT Sport Films.

COMEDY CENTRAL
Sky 112 Virgin 132

12noon Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place. **1.00** Friends. **4.00** Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place. **5.00** Friends. **8.00** Your Face or Mine. **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News. **10.00** The Comedy Bus. **10.35** Russell Howard's Stand Up Central. **11.00** Jackass.

DAVE (DAYTIME)
Freeview 12 Sky 111 Virgin 127

11.55am Red Bull Soapbox Race. **12.55pm** Top Gear India Special. **2.50** Top Gear Winter Olympics Special. **3.50** Top Gear. **5.30** Red Bull Soapbox Race.

DISCOVERY
Sky 125 Virgin 250

9.00am Outback Truckers. **11.00** Wheeler Dealers. **12noon** Baggage Battles. **1.00** Combat Dealers. **2.00** Wheeler Dealers. **3.00** Ed Stafford: Left for Dead. **4.00** Mighty Ships. **5.00** Gold Rush. **6.00** Fast N' Loud Revved Up. **7.00** Outback Truckers. **8.00** Alaska: The Last Frontier. **9.00** Tanked. **10.00** Moonshiners. **11.00** Wheeler Dealers.

DRAMA (DAYTIME)
Freeview 20 Sky 143 Virgin 130

9.00am Pie in the Sky. **10.00** Classic Holby City. **11.00** The Bill. **1.00pm** Classic EastEnders. **2.20** Bergerac. **3.20** Lovejoy. **4.20** Pie in the Sky. **5.20** Birds of a Feather. **6.00** Brush Strokes. **6.40** Bread.

E4 (DAYTIME)
Freeview 28 Sky 135 Virgin 106

9.00am Baby Daddy. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **11.00** The Goldbergs. **12noon** Brooklyn Nine-Nine. **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. **2.00** Baby Daddy. **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine. **4.00** The Goldbergs. **5.00** The Crystal Maze. **6.00** The Big Bang Theory.

EDEN
Sky 166 Virgin 245

12noon Galapagos. **1.00** Ten Deadliest Snakes with Nigel Marven. **2.00** Jungle Planet. **3.00** Forces of Nature with Brian Cox. **4.00** Ten Deadliest Snakes with Nigel Marven. **5.00** Jungle Planet. **6.00** Madagascar. **7.00** Galapagos. **8.00** Forces of Nature with Brian Cox. **9.00** Sea of Creepy Monsters. **10.00** Madagascar. **11.00** Galapagos.

EUROSPORT 1
Sky 410 Virgin 523

9.00am World Superbikes. **10.00** Cycling: Tour of Turkey. **11.00** Live Cycling: Tour of Turkey. **1.00pm** Golf: Masters. **2.00** WATTS Top 10. **2.15** Live Cycling: Brabantse Pijl. **4.45** Cycling: Get to Know. **5.00** Snooker: O'Sullivan v Allen. **7.00** Cycling: Tour of Turkey. **8.30** Cycling: Brabantse Pijl. **9.30** Cycling: Amstel Gold Race. **10.30** Cycling: Tour of Turkey. **11.30** Cycling: Brabantse Pijl.

FILM4
Freeview 15 Sky 313 Virgin 428

11.00am GARFIELD 2: A TALE OF TWO KITTIES. (2006) (U) 12.35pm ICE AGE. (2002) (U) 2.10 OVER THE HEDGE. (2006) (U) 3.50 BACK TO THE FUTURE PART III. (1990) (PG) 6.10 EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS. (2014) (12) 9.00 EDDIE THE EAGLE. (2016) (PG) 11.10 COMMANDO. (1985) (18) 12.55am MONSTERS: DARK CONTINENT. (2014) (15)

5STAR (DAYTIME)
Freeview 30 Sky 128 Virgin 151

12noon Two and a Half Men. **1.00** 3rd Rock from the Sun. **2.00** Will & Grace. **3.00** Neighbours. **3.30** Home and Away. **4.00** My Wife and Kids. **5.00** Fresh Off the Boat. **6.00** Neighbours. **6.30** Home and Away.

5 USA (DAYTIME)
Freeview 21 Sky 141 Virgin 153

11.10am Law & Order. **1.10pm** FILM: Jesse Stone: Death in Paradise. (2006) (15) Includes Access. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. **5.00** NCIS. **6.00** Law & Order.

FOOD NETWORK UK
Freeview 41 Sky 172 Virgin 291

6.00pm Jamie's Super Food. **6.30** Jamie's 15 Minute Meals. **7.00** The Pioneer Woman. **8.00** Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. **10.00** Gok's Chinese Takeaway. **11.00** Mystery Diners.

FOX
Sky 124 Virgin 157

10.00am Monk. **11.00** NCIS. **12noon** Bones. **2.00** The Mentalist. **3.00** NCIS. **4.00** Monk. **5.00** Bones. **6.00** The Mentalist. **7.00** NCIS. **10.00** Bull. **11.00** American Dad!

GOLD
Sky 110

12noon 2point4 Children. **1.20** Hi-de-Hi! **2.00** dinnerladies. **2.40** 2point4 Children. **4.00** Last of the Summer Wine. **6.00** Hi-de-Hi! **6.40** dinnerladies. **7.20** Dad's Army. **8.40** Blackadder II. **10.00** Live at the Apollo. **11.00** Black Books.

HISTORY
Sky 130 Virgin 270

9.00am Mega Mechanics. **10.00** Ozzy & Jack's American Roadtrip. **11.00** Mountain Men. **12noon** Forged in Fire. **1.00** American Pickers. **2.00** Hardcore Pawn. **3.00** Storage Wars. **5.00** Forged in Fire. **7.00** American Pickers. **8.00** Mega Mechanics. **9.00** The Curse of Oak Island. **10.00** River Hunters. **11.00** WW2 Treasure Hunters.

ITV2 (DAYTIME)
Freeview 6 Sky 118 Virgin 115

8.55am You've Been Framed! Gold. **9.25** The Ellen DeGeneres Show. **10.15** BGT: Top 10 Comedy Corkers. **11.15** The Guide to You've Been Framed! Gold. **12.15pm** Emmerdale. **1.15** You've Been Framed! Gold. **1.40** The Ellen DeGeneres Show. **2.35** Jeremy Kyle. **6.00** Take Me Out.

ITV3 (DAYTIME)
Freeview 10 Sky 119 Virgin 117

9.00am Judge Judy. **10.30** Agatha Christie's Poirot: Taken at the Flood. **12.40pm** Heartbeat. **1.45** Classic Emmerdale. **2.50** Classic Coronation Street. **3.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot: Mrs McGinty's Dead. **5.55** Heartbeat.

ITV4 (DAYTIME)
Freeview 24 Sky 120 Virgin 118

8.40am Quincy ME. **9.40** Minder. **10.45** The Sweeney. **11.50** The Professionals. **12.55pm** The Protectors. **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket. **4.00** Minder. **5.00** The Professionals. **6.00** The Car Chasers.

ITVBE
Freeview 26 Sky 131 Virgin 119

9.00am LittleBe. **12noon** Income Property. **12.25** The Real Housewives of New Jersey. **1.20** The Bachelor. **2.15** Million Dollar Listing: LA. **3.10** The Real Housewives of Orange County. **4.05** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills. **6.00** Buyers Bootcamp. **7.00** Buying and Selling. **8.00** Dinner Date. **9.00** Sam and Billie Faiers: The Mummy Diaries. **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex. **11.00** Celebrity Showmance. **12midnight** Selling It in the ATL.

LIFETIME
Sky 164 Virgin 208

9.00am Pawn Stars. **10.00** Storage Wars. **11.00** Judge Judy. **1.00pm** Britain's Next Top Model. **2.00** Escaping Polygamy. **3.00** Judge Judy. **4.00** Dance Moms. **5.00** Project Runway All Stars. **6.00** Pawn Stars. **7.00** Judge Judy. **9.00** Little Women: Atlanta. **10.00** Little Women: LA. **11.00** Hardcore Pawn.

MORE4 (DAYTIME)
Freeview 14 Sky 136 Virgin 147

8.55am A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **9.55** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **10.55** The Great British Bake Off. **12.15pm** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. **1.15** Four in a Bed. **3.50** Food Unwrapped. **4.55** The Secret Life of the Zoo. **5.55** The Supervet. **6.55** 999: On the Frontline.

NAT'L GEOGRAPHIC
Sky 129 Virgin 266

9.00am Yukon Gold. **10.00** Highway Thru Hell. **11.00** Ice Road Rescue. **12noon** Wicked Tuna: North v South. **1.00** Wicked Tuna. **2.00** Car SOS. **4.00** Air Crash Investigation. **6.00** WWII's Greatest Raids. **7.00** Nazi Megastructures. **8.00** Alaska's Toughest Pilots. **9.00** Alaska State Troopers. **10.00** Lawless Island: Alaska. **11.00** Car SOS.

PBS AMERICA
Freeview 91 Sky 174 Virgin 276

10.20am Prosecuting Evil: The Extraordinary World of Ben Ferencz.

RADIO CHOICE

■ **MARY ANNE HOBBS (BBC 6 MUSIC, 10.30AM)** plays us a session by James Blake, recently recorded at the Maida Vale studios, which includes tracks from his recent album, Assume Form. Classically trained, James (pictured) enjoys collaborating with other artistes, and Travis Scott, Andre 3000, Moses Sumney and the singer Rosalia all worked with him on the album.

■ A TRIP to Disneyland on a forged passport cost Kim Jong-nam his prospect of becoming one of the world's most powerful men — and his life. He was the half-brother and heir apparent to Kim Jong-un, supreme leader of North Korea. The jaunt to Disneyland went very wrong, exposing North Korea to ridicule and sending Kim Jong-nam into exile. The drama-documentary **DEATH AT**

RADIO SCOTLAND
FM: 92.4/94.7MHZ; MW: 810KHZ

6.00 Good Morning Scotland. **9.00** Mornings. **12.00** John Beattie. **1.30** Stark Talk. **2.00** Bulletin. **2.05** The Afternoon Show with Grant Stott. **4.00** Newsdrive. **6.30** (FM) Get It On with Bryan Burnett. **6.30** (MW) Sportsound. **7.30** (MW) Get It On with Bryan Burnett. **9.05** Travelling Folk. **11.00** Bulletin. **11.05** Vic Galloway. **1.00** As Radio 5 Live.

RADIO 2 FM: 88-90.2MHZ

5.00 Nicki Chapman. **6.30** The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show. **9.30** Jo Whiley. **12.00** Vanessa Feltz. **2.00** Steve Wright in the Afternoon. **5.00** Sara Cox. **7.00** Mark Radcliffe. **9.00** The Folk Show with Mark Radcliffe. **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. **12.00** O.J. Borg. **3.00** Pick of the Pops.

RADIO 3 FM: 90.2-92.4MHZ

6.30 Breakfast. **9.00** Essential Classics. Ian Skelly is joined by Kelsey Grammer. **12.00** Composer of the Week: Berg. **1.00** News. **1.02** Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. The second concert in a series curated by the Calidore String Quartet. **2.00** Afternoon Concert. Music by Bach, Rautavaara and Shotakovich. **3.30** Choral Evensong. Live from Canterbury Cathedral. **4.30** New Generation Artists. Tenor Alessandro Fisher sings Over the Rim of the Moon by Michael Head. **5.00** In Tune. Music and arts news. **7.00** In Tune Mixtape. **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert. Sir Andrew Davis and the BBC Symphony Orchestra in Tippett's evocation of a Senegalese lake. **10.00** Free Thinking. Matthew Sweet asks what makes people cry and why. **10.45** The Essay: Behold the Man. Muslim journalist Abdul-Rehman Malik examines Jacobello del Bonomo's depiction of Christ. **11.00** Late Junction. **12.30** Through the Night.

RADIO 4
FM: 92.4-94.6MHZ; LW: 198KHZ

5.30 News Briefing. **5.43** Prayer for the Day. **5.45** Farming Today. **5.58** Tweet of the Day. **6.00** Today. **9.00** New Ways of Seeing. New series. Artist James Bridle

ITV 3

10

Murder, She Wrote Jessica travels to Amish country in search of a special handmade quilt, but finds herself embroiled in yet another baffling murder investigation

Agatha Christie's Poirot Murder in Mesopotamia: An archaeologist's wife is murdered during an excavation in the Middle East. Fortunately, a vacationing Poirot — who shares with most great detectives an inability to go on holiday without stumbling over a body or two — is on hand to investigate. David Suchet stars

10.05 The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco Drama set during the social change of the mid-Fifties, following four women gifted with extraordinary intelligence

The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco It becomes clear that San Francisco is in the grip of a killer with a dark and complex agenda (To 12.05)

ITV 4

24

The Chase Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize

River Monsters Jeremy Wade visits the north of Australia, where something in the waters was seemingly responsible for the disappearance of six men

Magnum Force (1973,18) Maverick cop Dirty Harry antagonises his superiors once more in his pursuit of a vigilante group responsible for murdering the city's most wanted criminals. However, he is unaware that the killers are some of his fellow officers — and are prepared to see him dead to keep their secret safe. Action thriller sequel, starring Clint Eastwood and Hal Holbrook. Includes FYI Daily

11.35 The Usual Suspects (1995,18) Thriller. Includes FYI Daily (To 1.50)

MORE 4

14

6.55 999: On the Frontline A 93-year-old may have a life-threatening infection

7.55 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud follows the progress of Stephen Yeoman and Anita Findlay, who want to build a cutting-edge, post-industrial house in the traditional area of the South Downs

Find It, Fix It, Drive It Henry Cole and Sam Lovegrove restore and transform a 1968 Morris ambulance into the quintessential vintage race transporter

Car SOS Fuzz Townshend and Tim Shaw restore an Aston Martin DB6 for its owner, who has been prevented from working on it due to health problems

24 Hours in A&E A 56-year-old man is put on life support following a cardiac arrest, and a nightclub host realises his lifestyle is taking its toll (To 12.00)

PICK

11

Warehouse 13 Pete and Myka visit Hong Kong in search of Sykes, and upon entering his lair become involved in a dangerous game with lives at stake

Lost Girl Bo becomes convinced a prisoner sentenced to death is innocent, and uses her political knowledge in a bid to get her out of jail, before going on a mission of vengeance

Murders That Shocked the Nation Exploring the story of Armin Meiwes, who in Germany in 2002 filmed himself killing and eating a victim he had contacted online

Elementary Holmes and Watson are taken into the dark case of an illegal drug trial that is driving participants to murder

Brit Cops: Frontline Crime UK Police officers in west Wales deal with violent drunks and drug dealers, as well as a dangerous domestic incident (To 12.00)

QUEST

37

Railroad Australia Bernie struggles home in five streamliner locos pulling 90 old coal wagons. After 20 years renovating a diesel locomotive, James wants to drive it

Salvage Hunters In Macclesfield, Cheshire, Drew Pritchard meets a mother-and-son team. Later, in Leeds he catches up with a young dealer with an eye for modern pieces

Salvage Hunters: The Restorers New series. Cabinet-maker Alex resurrects a 300-year-old chest

Salvage Hunters — Best Buys Drew Pritchard counts down some of his most memorable buys, from the rare and valuable to the exquisite and the quirky

How It's Made The development of Marseille soap and Laguiole pocket knives

How It's Made Reconditioned sander drums and lithographs (To 12.00)

DAVE

12

World's Most Dangerous Roads *Twenty Twelve* co-stars Hugh Bonneville and Jessica Hynes go on a road trip through the former Soviet republic of Georgia

Last Stop Garage The boys repair a hovercraft for a local journalist

Last Stop Garage The CRB crew help a local entrepreneur to enter the paving business

QI Stephen Fry conjures up some seasonal merriment with Jenny Eclair, Johnny Vegas and Bill Bailey supplementing the efforts of regular panellist Alan Davies

Have I Got a Bit More News for You Katherine Ryan hosts the topical quiz, with Richard Osman and Desiree Burch joining team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton

Porters Simon is forced to become a sperm donor to raise extra rent money

11.40 Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You Hosted by David Mitchell (To 12.40)

DRAMA

20

7.20 Last of the Summer Wine Foggy, Clegg and Compo hit on a solution to their transport problems — building their own bikes. Bill Owen and Brian Wilde star

Rosemary & Thyme Part one of two. The amateur sleuths investigate when a man who apparently drowned is spotted alive and well just a few days later

Rosemary & Thyme Part two of two. The amateur sleuths continue their investigation. Mystery drama, starring Felicity Kendal and Pam Ferris

New Tricks Jack examines a conspiracy theory that the American government was involved in the death of a journalist who witnessed a crash at a U.S. Air Force base

11.15 Taggart Two skulls are found during building work, and the detective investigates a possible link to the theft of poisonous snakes from a Glasgow laboratory (To 2.20)

5STAR

30

Two and a Half Men Jake seeks advice about a girl at school

Two and a Half Men Charlie spends the night with Rose

Greatest Ever Movie Blunders Elis James points out mistakes in movies

Rich Kids Go Homeless New series. Six young privileged Brits agree to live on the streets of London for three nights

Elysium (2013,15) In the future, most of the human race exists in poverty on a ruined Earth, while a wealthy elite live on a space station. A man dying of radiation poisoning fights security forces to gain access to the satellite and its medical facilities. Sci-fi thriller, with Matt Damon. Includes Access (To 12.15)

5 USA

21

Law & Order A restaurant owner is beaten to death, and Briscoe and Green's investigation leads them to a gang of thrill-seeking teenagers

NCIS The teenage daughter of a U.S. Navy commander is abducted, and Ziva and Abby work closely with the girl's friend, who managed to escape from the kidnappers

Gone A pop star's sister is abducted from a sold-out concert — leaving the team with a huge crowd of suspects

Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Cragen orders Benson off a case. With Maria Bello

10.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit The team are called in when the body of a badly beaten teenager is found on a ride at an amusement park

11.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit A girl is killed in a hit-and-run (To 12.55)

THE AIRPORT (RADIO 4, 2.15PM) looks at the facts and the rumours behind Kim's downfall and the fatal ambush in February 2017, when two women smeared his face with nerve agent at Kuala Lumpur airport.

■ SOME people feel almost no pain, even in the throes of childbirth. This may be due to a genetic mutation that changes the way sodium works in their bodies. For this afternoon's instalment of **IN THEIR ELEMENT (RADIO 4, 3.30PM)**, Sophie Scott tells us about the chemical element, which may be the key to a new generation of painkillers.

12.15pm Great Escape — The Reckoning. **1.20** The Secrets of the Mary Rose. **2.30** King Alfred and the Anglo-Saxons. **3.50** Prosecuting Evil: The Extraordinary World of Ben Ferencz. **5.35** The Secrets of the Mary Rose. **6.40** King Alfred and the Anglo-Saxons. **7.55** The Mysteries of the Medieval Ship. **9.00** War at Sea: Scotland's Story. **11.15** The Mysteries of the Medieval Ship.

PICK (DAYTIME)

Freeview 11 Sky 152 Virgin 123

12noon Border Patrol. **1.00** Police Force: Australia. **2.00** Border Security: Australia's Front Line. **3.00** Nothing to Declare. **4.00** Stop, Search, Seize. **5.00** Without a Trace. **6.00** Stargate SG-1.

QUEST (DAYTIME)

Freeview 37 Sky 144 Virgin 172

9.00am Wheeler Dealers. **11.00** Fantomworks. **12noon** Chasing Classic Cars. **1.00** Gold Divers: Under the Ice. **2.00** Railroad Australia. **3.00** Salvage Hunters. **4.00** Shed and Buried. **5.00** Mighty Cruise Ships. **6.00** Wheeler Dealers.

REALLY

Freeview 17 Sky 142 Virgin 128

12noon Escape to the Country. **1.00** Escape to the Country. **2.00** Fantasy Homes by the Sea. **3.00** Sarah Beeny's Renovate Don't Relocate. **4.00** Most Haunted. **5.00** Ghost Adventures. **6.00** Antiques Road Trip. **7.00** Escape to the Country. **8.00** Sarah Beeny's Renovate Don't Relocate. **9.00** One Born Every Minute. **10.00** Nightwatch: Emergency After Dark. **11.00** Inside the Ambulance.

SKY ARTS

Sky 122 Virgin 122

12noon The Seventies. **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected. **1.30** J.R.R. Tolkien. **2.45** Off Camera with Sam Jones. **4.00** Discovering: Max von Sydow. **5.00** Discovering: Julie Andrews. **6.00** The Seventies. **7.00** Portrait Artist of the Year 2019. **8.00** Comedy Legends. **9.00** Urban Myths: Donald Trump and Andy Warhol. **9.30** Urban Myths: Princess Diana, Freddie Mercury and Kenny Everett. **10.00** The History of Comedy. **11.00** Discovering: Bill Murray.

SKY ATLANTIC

Sky 108

9.00am The West Wing. **11.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. **12noon** Without a Trace. **2.00** Blue Bloods. **3.00** The West Wing. **5.00** Without a Trace. **7.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. **8.00** Blue Bloods. **9.00** Billions. **10.10** Veep. **10.45** Barry. **11.20** The Case Against Adnan Syed.

SKY COMEDY

Sky 307 Virgin 438

11.00am TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY. (2006) (15) 1.05pm BLADES OF GLORY. (2007) (12) 2.45 STEP BROTHERS. (2008) (15) 4.35 THE HOUSE. (2017) (15) 6.10 MADE OF HONOUR. (2008) (12) 8.00 BLADES OF GLORY. (2007) (12) 9.40 STEP BROTHERS. (2008) (15) 11.35 THE HOUSE. (2017) (15)

SKY DRAMA

Sky 309 Virgin 440

11.45am TULLY. (2018) (15) 1.30pm LOST IN TRANSLATION. (2003) (15) 3.20 THE PRINCE OF TIDES. (1991) (PG) 5.35 JERRY MAGUIRE. (1996) (15) 8.00 TULLY. (2018) (15) 9.45 MY FRIEND DAHMER. (2017) (15) 11.40 MARSHALL. (2017) (15)

SKY MUSICALS

Sky 308 Virgin 442

9.50am WEST SIDE STORY. (1961) (PG) 12.30pm THE GREATEST SHOWMAN. (2017) (PG) 2.20 ANNIE. (1982) (U) 4.30 SLEEPING BEAUTY. (1959) (U) 6.00 PITCH PERFECT. (2012) (12) 8.00 THE GREATEST SHOWMAN. (2017) (PG) 10.00 GREASE. (1978) (PG)

SKY ONE

Sky 106 Virgin 110

12noon NCIS: Los Angeles. **1.00** Hawaii Five-0. **3.00** Modern Family. **4.00** The Simpsons. **5.30** Futurama. **6.30** The Simpsons. **8.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow. **9.00** Magnum P.I.. **10.00** Strike Back: Silent War. **11.00** Karl Pilkington: The Moaning of Life.

SKY PREMIERE

Sky 301 Virgin 431

11.35am CHRISTOPHER ROBIN. (2018) (PG) 1.35pm SUPER TROOPERS 2. (2018) (15) 3.20 LU OVER THE WALL. (2017) (PG) 5.20 DUSTY AND ME. (2016) (12) 7.00 CHRISTOPHER ROBIN. (2018) (PG) 9.00 SUPER TROOPERS 2. (2018) (15) 10.45 THE WHISKEY BANDIT. (2017) (15)

SKY WITNESS

Sky 107 Virgin 112

12noon Paramedics. **3.00** To Catch a Smuggler: J.F.K. Airport. **7.00** Nothing to Declare. **8.00** Criminal Minds. **9.00** Grey's Anatomy. **10.00** Station 19. **11.00** Criminal Minds.

SKY MAIN EVENT

Sky 401 Virgin 511

8.40am Live ANZ Premiership Netball. **10.15** Sky Sports Boxing Gold. **10.30** Sky Sports News. **12.30pm** Live Royal London One-Day Cup Cricket. **9.00** Sky Sports Tonight. **10.00** The Debate. **11.00** Sky Sports News.

SKY PREMIER LEAGUE

Sky 402 Virgin 512

9.00am The Debate. **10.00** Premier League Years. **12noon** The Debate. **1.00** Premier League Years. **3.00** PL Best Goals 13/14. **4.00** PL Greatest Games. **5.00** Premier League Highlights. **5.30** Premier League 100 Club. **6.00** Premier League Review. **7.00** Premier League World. **7.30** Premier League Highlights. **8.00** Premier League Review. **9.00** Premier League World. **9.30** Premier League Highlights. **10.00** The Debate. **11.00** PL Best Goals 93/94.

SKY FOOTBALL

Sky 403 Virgin 513

9.00am Football Years. **10.00** EFL Play-Off Final Highlights. **11.00** One2Eleven. **11.30** Football's Greatest Players. **12noon** EFL Greatest Games. **12.30** SPFL Greatest Games. **1.00** Football Countdowns. **2.00** Football Years. **3.00** EFL Football League Play-Off Finals. **5.00** EFL Greatest Games. **5.30** SPFL Greatest Games. **6.00** Football Years. **6.30** Soccer AM: The Best Bits. **7.00** Football's Greatest Players. **8.00** EFL Greatest Games. **8.30** SPFL Greatest Games. **9.00** EFL Play-Off Final Highlights. **10.00** The Debate. **11.00** Football's Greatest Players.

SKY CRICKET

Sky 404 Virgin 514

9.00am Cricket's Greatest Games. **10.00** Coaching Clinic with Rob Key. **10.55** Lord's Pavilion Portraits. **11.00** Best of Sky Cricket. **11.30** Royal London One-Day Cup Cricket. **12.30pm** Live Royal London One-Day Cup Cricket. **9.00** How the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup Was Won. **11.00** World Cup Cricket Classics.

SKY MIX

Sky 121 Virgin 520

8.40am Live ANZ Premiership Netball. **10.15** Game Changers. **10.30** Netball Superleague. **11.30** Sporting Greats. **12noon** Netball Superleague. **1.00** Sporting Records. **1.30** My Icon: Rachel Yankey. **1.45** My Icon: John Amaechi. **2.00** Netball Superleague. **3.00** Game Changers. **3.30** My Icon: Rachel Yankey. **3.45** My Icon: John Amaechi. **4.00** Game Changers. **4.15** My Icon: Natasha Jonas. **4.30** Game Changers. **5.00** WWE Main Event. **6.00** Netball Superleague. **7.00** My Icon: Shaun Gayle. **7.10** ANZ Premiership Netball. **8.45** My Icon: Shaun Gayle. **9.00** Sporting Greats. **9.30** Game Changers. **10.00** NRL Try Time. **11.00** Premier League World. **11.30** Premier League 100 Club.

SONY CRIME CHANNEL

Freeview 40 Sky 157 Virgin 193

11.00am Body of Evidence. **1.00pm** Facing Evil. **2.00** Murder Detectives: Solved by CCTV. **3.00** Fatal Attraction. **4.00** Person of Interest. **5.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. **7.00** Hustle. **9.00** Bizarre Murders. **11.00** Murder Detectives: Solved by CCTV.

SYFY

Sky 114 Virgin 135

8.00am Teleshopping. **11.00** Stitchers. **12noon** Primeval. **1.00** FILM: The Librarian 2: Return to King Solomon's Mines. (2006) (PG) **3.00** Buffy the Vampire Slayer. **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager. **6.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation. **8.00** Stitchers. **9.00** Project Blue Book. **10.00** FILM: Quarantine 2: Terminal. (2011) (15)

TALKING PICTURES TV

Freeview 81 Sky 328 Virgin 445

12noon FILM: The History of Mr Polly. (1949) (U) **2.00** The Edgar Wallace Mystery Theatre. **3.30** FILM: The Purple Plain. (1954) (PG) **5.30** Robin's Nest. **6.00** FILM: Mr Perrin and Mr Traill. (1948) (U) **7.50** FILM: A Little of What You Fancy. (1968) (U) **9.00** A Family at War. **10.00** Spearhead. **11.00** FILM: A Kind of Loving. (1962) (PG)

TCM

Sky 315 Virgin 415

7.20am THE CHEYENNE SOCIAL CLUB. (1970) (PG) 9.30 THE SEA OF GRASS. (1947) (PG) 12noon GUN FIGHT. (1961) (U) 1.30 THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL. (1960) (PG) 3.30 A TORNADO IN THE SADDLE. (1942) (PG) 4.45 THE UNFORGIVEN. (1960) (PG) 7.15 THE GUN RUNNERS. (1958) (PG) Crime drama, starring Audie Murphy. **9.00 ENTER THE DRAGON. (1973) (18) 11.10 TANGO & CASH. (1989) (18) 1.20am THE LAST DETAIL. (1973) (18)**

TRUE ENTERTAINMENT

Freeview 61 Sky 179 Virgin 189

11.00am Little House on the Prairie. **1.00pm** FILM: Danielle Steel's Daddy. (1991) (PG) **3.00** Rumpole of the Bailey. **4.00** Murder, She Wrote. **5.00** Hamish Macbeth. **6.00** Born and Bred. **7.00** M*A*S*H. **8.00** Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased). **9.00** Taggart.

UNIVERSAL TV

Sky 113 Virgin 137

12noon Murder in Paradise. **1.00** Law & Order. **3.00** CSI: Miami. **5.00** Major Crimes. **7.00** NCIS. **9.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. **10.00** The Murders. **11.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.

W

Sky 109 Virgin 125

12noon Tipping Point. **2.00** My Dream Home. **4.00** Renovate My Home: Leave It to Bryan. **5.00** Tipping Point. **6.00** John Torode's Australia. **7.00** Fantasy Homes by the Sea. **8.00** Inside the Ambulance. **9.00** The Story of Fertility. **10.00** The World According to Kids. **11.00** The Shift: Women on the Force.

YESTERDAY

Freeview 19 Sky 155 Virgin 129

12noon Time Team. **2.00** The Life of Mammals. **3.00** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. **4.00** Murder Maps. **5.00** Wartime Crime. **6.00** The World at War. **7.00** Impossible Engineering. **8.00** Hitler's Most Wanted. **9.00** Porridge. **10.20** Steptoe and Son. **11.00** Open All Hours.

RADIO 5 LIVE

MW: 693/909KHZ

5.00 Morning Reports. **5.15** Wake Up to Money. **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast. **9.00** Your Call. **10.00** The Emma Barnett Show with Clare McDonnell. **1.00** Nihal Arthanayake. **4.00** 5 Live Drive. **7.00** 5 Live Sport. **8.00** 5 Live Sport: Champions League Football 2018-19. **10.30** Geoff Lloyd. **1.00** Up All Night.

reimagines John Berger's Ways of Seeing for the digital age. **9.30** The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry. **9.45** (LW) Daily Service. **9.45** (FM) Book of the Week: Michael Tippett: The Biography. By Oliver Soden. **10.00** Woman's Hour. **10.55** The Listening Project. **11.00** My Name Is. A young man who wants to leave behind a life in gangs. **11.30** Ability. Matt decides to turn over a new leaf and to go get a job. **12.00** News; (LW) Shipping Forecast. **12.04** Adrian Mole and the Weapons of Mass Destruction. By Sue Townsend. **12.18** You and Yours. Consumer affairs. **12.57** Weather. **1.00** The World at One. **1.45** One to One. Environmentalist Tom Burke discusses leaving his inheritance to charity. **2.00** The Archers. Freddie asks a favour from the enemy. **2.15** Drama: Death at the Airport: The Plot Against Kim Jong-nam. By Nick Perry. **3.00** Money Box Live. **3.30** In Their Element. Sophie Scott on why sodium powers everything we do. **4.00** Thinking Allowed. Thought-provoking issues. **4.30** The Media Show. **5.00** PM; (LW) Shipping Forecast. **5.57** Weather. **6.00** Six O'Clock News. **6.30** Fags, Mags and Bags. **7.00** The Archers. **7.15** Front Row. **7.45** The Citadel. **8.00** FutureProofing. **8.45** Lent Talks. **9.00** Costing the Earth. **9.30** New Ways of Seeing. **9.59** Weather. **10.00** The World Tonight. **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Adrian Mole and the Weapons of Mass Destruction. **11.00** Bunk Bed. **11.15** Kieran Hodgson's Earworms. **11.30** The Untold. **12.00** News and Weather. **12.30** Book of the Week: Michael Tippett: The Biography. **12.48** Shipping Forecast. **1.00** As BBC World Service.

GEE, NAPA'S GOT BOTTLE!

Six months after fires tore through California, it's business as usual for its sunny wineries

Vintage views: Napa Valley and (inset) wine tasting

Pictures: CORBIS / GETTY

THE town of Paradise in California's Butte County was all but completely wiped out as the state endured its worst-ever wildfires in September last year.

But they are nothing if not resilient, these Californians, and the message in Butte and the grape-growing territory heading south-west to Napa Valley is that it's business as usual.

This is California's leading wine region, famed for its sultry chardonnays, zesty sauvignon blancs and big, bold cabernet sauvignons. Napa might only account for some 4 per cent of California's wine production, but it welcomes 3.5 million visitors and contributes a remarkable £38 billion to the U.S. economy each year.

My first port of call is Calistoga, a small town at the top of the valley celebrated for its hot springs and geothermal baths. At a friend's insistence, I head straight for the Calistoga Motor Lodge & Spa. Here, I allow the charming Christel to slather my face in white kaolin clay and then plaster me with a paint brush from head to toe in French green clay. 'You will feel won-der-ful!' she exclaims.

Next stop is the CIA. No, not that one, silly, the Culinary Institute of America, housed in a forbidding former Christian Brothers building. It lies on the outskirts of St Helena, a town for which the epithet 'quaint' was invented. The main drag is crammed with neat little boutiques, galleries, bakeries and bistros.

The CIA hosts all manner of courses for aspiring chefs, sommeliers and restaurateurs and serves a pretty fine lunch for visitors, too, in its Gatehouse Restaurant.

I fall in with Cindy and Cathy from Hannibal, Missouri. It's their first time in Napa and they tell me they're delighted to find a menu that doesn't rely on deep-fried catfish and onion rings. 'At Bubba's, our local, they sell onion rings by the foot,' says Cathy. 'You walk in and waddle out.'

There are almost 500 wineries in the region and most boast excellent tasting rooms and beaming, California-sized welcomes. Some ask that you book ahead; at others, you simply pitch up with an inquiring thirst.

It would take months to visit every winery, so I pick just a handful based on the style of wines I like. I drop in on Joseph Phelps Vineyards, Charles Krug Winery, Robert Mondavi Winery, Cakebread Cellars and Turnbull Wine Cellars to name a few and taste — or rather, drink — like a king.

I also dine well at Charter Oak in St Helena and, on Highway 29, at Mustards Grill, whose Truckstop Special — 'Always meat, often potatoes, rarely vegetables' — is a belt-straining delight. So engrossed am I in my browsing and sluicing that I manage — idiotically — to miss my trip on the Napa Valley Wine Train and a balloon ride over the vineyards. There's always next time.

JONATHAN RAY

TRAVEL FACTS

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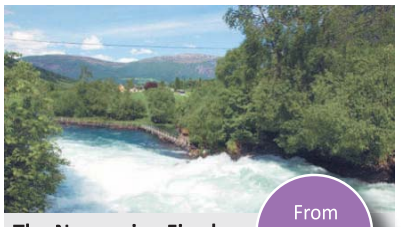
A showcase of Iceland's sheer, unspoilt natural beauty, this epic circumnavigation of one of the world's most spectacular islands presents extraordinary wonders, landscapes and wildlife during time spent aboard and ashore.



The Norwegian Fjords in Five Nights
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23 August 2019 - Sailing from – NEWCASTLE
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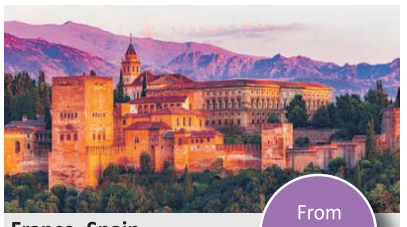

France, Spain & Portugal Cruise
From £1,299pp
11 nights – L1922
28th August 2019 - Sailing from NEWCASTLE
An immersive Iberian adventure in four culture-rich cities in Spain and Portugal for an array of diverse experiences. You'll have chances to immerse yourself in centuries of fascinating history, marvel at impressive architecture, sample traditional flavours and much more; each destination on your itinerary is packed with highlights

Welcome to Scandinavia
From £799pp
8 nights – L1923
8th September 2019 - Sailing from – NEWCASTLE
Expect a warm welcome at every destination on this immersive Scandinavian adventure, with friendly locals ready to greet you at a trio of charming towns and cities in Sweden, Norway and Denmark, and two amenable capitals awaiting your exploration. You can enjoy scenic cruising of breathtaking waterways, marvel at beautifully unspoilt landscape.

Cruising German Waterways
From £849pp
9 nights – L1925
27th September 2019 - Sailing from – NEWCASTLE
Making the most of Balmoral's ability to dock closer to the centre of three stunning cities, you can uncover a string of delights with ease on this classic, nine-night German jaunt. White sand beaches and traditional pubs await in the seaside town of Warnemünde, which is also your gateway to Berlin

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2NT VENICE STAY & 7 NTS NORWEGIAN STAR

IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW NORWEGIAN STAR, THINK AGAIN. Following a nearly three-week dry dock in Barcelona, Spain, Norwegian Star underwent extensive enhancements to its staterooms, public spaces, restaurants, bars and lounges as part of The Norwegian Edge program. The ship, built in 2001, also unveiled three new venues: Sky High Bar, Bliss Ultra Lounge and Spice H2O, an adults-only enclave, Spice H2O. This well-appointed venue features a private pool, hot tubs, full bar, and uninterrupted ocean views. During the day, it makes an ideal spot for sunbathing, and at night, it transforms into an open-air lounge with live entertainment, DJs, and energizing themed nights.

All 1,174 staterooms and suites were outfitted with USB ports, enhanced with over 1,500 works of art and upgraded with new carpet, headboards and select furniture. The three-bedroom garden villas which feature private deck areas and can accommodate up to seven people were also remodelled to offer a light and airy design.

Additional enhancements were made to the bars and lounges, restaurants and public spaces including Atrium Café & Bar, Garden Café, and the main dining rooms. A VIP section was also added in the Casino.

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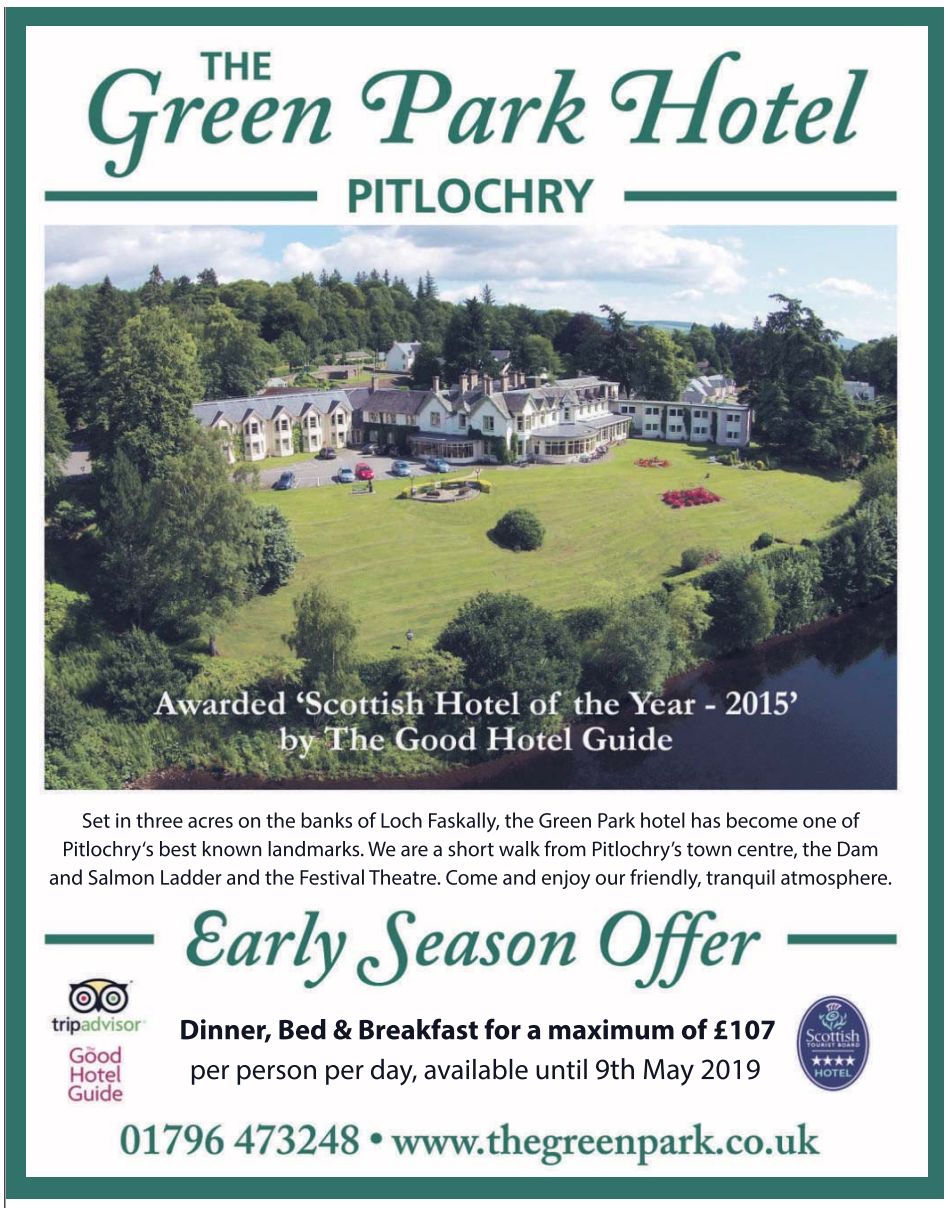
Scotland



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CLUB BAR (DUNDEE) LIMITED
Company Number: SC436175
(In Liquidation)

Adam Southard of Begbies Traynor, 2nd Floor, Excel House, 30 Semple Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8BL, hereby give notice that, on 12 April 2019, I was appointed as Liquidator of the above company by a resolution of a meeting of creditors.
A liquidation committee has not been formed. Accordingly I give notice that I do not intend to summon a further meeting for the purposes of establishing a Liquidation Committe unless one tenth, in value, of the creditors require us to do so in terms of section 142(3) of the Insolvency Act 1986.
Further details contact: Claudia Moran, Email: Edinburgh@begbies-traynor.com, Tel: 0131 222 9060.
Dated 12 April 2019
Adam Charles Southard, Liquidator

TEJJ CONSULTING LIMITED
Company Number: SC379283
(In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation)

Kenneth Wilson Pattullo and Kenneth Robert Craig, both of Begbies Traynor (Central) LLP, 7 Queen's Gardens, Aberdeen, AB15 4YD, hereby give notice that we were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above company by Resolution of a meeting of creditors held pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 on 15 April 2019. All creditors who have not already done so are required on or before 2 October 2019 to lodge their claims with me.
Further details contact: Tel: 01224 619354.
Kenneth Pattullo & Kenneth Craig, Joint Liquidators
15 April 2019

Public Notices

FREELANCE EURO SERVICES (MMCDXXXIX) LIMITED - IN LIQUIDATION
REGISTERED No: SC310344
REGISTERED OFFICE: THISTLE HOUSE 2ND FLOOR, 24 THISTLE STREET, BANCHORY, KINCARDINESHIRE, AB31 4EA

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Rule 4.19 of the Insolvency (Scotland) Rules 1986, that on 16 April 2019, I Eileen Blackburn, French Duncan LLP, 56 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, EH12 5AY was appointed Liquidator of FREELANCE EURO SERVICES (MMCDXXXIX) LIMITED by resolution of a Meeting of Creditors pursuant to Section 138(4) of the Insolvency Act 1986

A liquidation committee has not been established. I do not intend to summon a further meeting for the purpose of establishing a liquidation committee unless one tenth in value of the creditors require me to do so in terms of section 142(3) of the Insolvency Act 1986.

All creditors who have not already done so are required to lodge their claims with me.

Eileen Blackburn
Office-holder Number: 8605
Liquidator
French Duncan LLP
16 April 2019

Further contact details:
Sonya Stevenson on telephone number 0131 243 0178 or email s.stevenson@frenchduncan.co.uk

ONLINE 2 HOME LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)

Company number: SC426451

I, Colin Murdoch, Insolvency Practitioner, of Murray Stewart Fraser Limited, Minerva Business Centre, Miler Street, Johnstone, PA5 8HP, hereby give notice pursuant to Rule 4.19 of the Insolvency (Scotland) Rules 1986 that I was appointed Liquidator of Online 2 Home Limited by resolution of the First Meeting of Creditors held on 26th March 2019.

A liquidation committee was not established. Accordingly, I hereby give notice that I do not intend to summon a further meeting for the purpose of establishing a liquidation committee unless one tenth in value of the creditors require me to do so in terms of Section 142(3) of the Insolvency Act 1986.

All creditors who have not already done so are required to lodge their claims with me by 30 June 2019.

Colin Murdoch (Insolvency Service IP number: 9415)
Liquidator

Murray Stewart Fraser Limited
Minerva Business Centre
Miler Street, Johnstone, PA5 8HP
Email: insolvency@murraysf.co.uk
Telephone: 0141 278 6499

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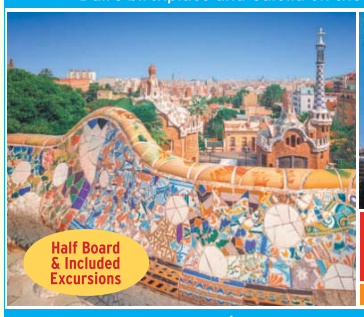

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13 MAY	£899pp	£849pp
10 JUNE	£939pp	£889pp
9 SEPT	£889pp	£839pp

PRESTWICK		
2019	was from	now from
13 MAY	£799pp	£749pp
10 JUNE	£819pp	£769pp
9 SEPT	£869pp	£819pp

ABERDEEN**		
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10 JUNE	£1,049pp	£999pp
9 SEPT	£999pp	£949pp

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- Excursion to Montserrat and a Cava Vineyard
- Excursion to Besalu and the Salvador Dali Museum
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9 JUNE	£1,099pp	£1,049pp
8 SEPT	£1,149pp	£1,099pp
15 SEPT	£1,149pp	£1,099pp
22 SEPT	£1,139pp	£1,089pp

GLASGOW		
2019	was from	now from
9 JUNE	£1,219pp	£1,169pp
8 SEPT	£1,249pp	£1,199pp
15 SEPT	£1,249pp	£1,199pp
22 SEPT	£1,199pp	£1,149pp

PRESTWICK		
2019	was from	now from
9 JUNE	£1,169pp	£1,119pp
8 SEPT	£1,269pp	£1,219pp
15 SEPT	£1,249pp	£1,199pp
22 SEPT	£1,149pp	£1,099pp

ABERDEEN**		
2019	was from	now from
9 JUNE	£1,389pp	£1,339pp
8 SEPT	£1,499pp	£1,449pp
15 SEPT	£1,379pp	£1,329pp
22 SEPT	£1,349pp	£1,299pp

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- Journeys on the Little Yellow Train and the Red Train of the Pyrenees
- Excursion on the Núria Valley Rack Railway
- Excursion to Figueres
- Tour on the Roses Express Town Train to the Cap de Creus Nature Park
- 7 nights' half board accommodation in a 3-star hotel in Roses
- Twin bedroom with private facilities
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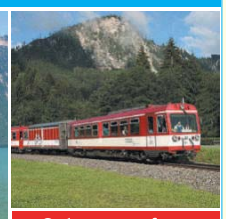
LITTLE TRAINS IN THE AUSTRIAN TYROL



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8 days, September 2019 | Flying from Edinburgh, Glasgow or Aberdeen**

A backdrop of breathtaking Alpine scenery, picture-postcard villages, wooden chalets with flower covered balconies and delightful railway journeys through spectacular Tyrolean countryside make this a special holiday. We stay in Oberau in the Wildschonau Valley, an ideal starting point for our included excursions.

EDINBURGH		
2019	was from	now from
11 SEPT	£1,099pp	£1,049pp

GLASGOW		
2019	was from	now from
11 SEPT	£1,189pp	£1,139pp

ABERDEEN**		
2019	was from	now from
11 SEPT	£1,269pp	£1,219pp

Your Escorted Holiday Includes:

- Journey on the Lake Achensee Rack and Pinion Railway
- Journey on the Ziller Valley Railway and Mayerhofen
- Journey on the Pinzgauer Railway and to Krimml Waterfalls
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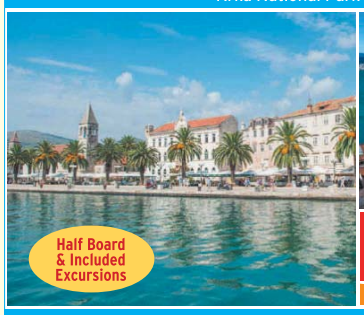
CROATIA'S DALMATIAN RIVIERA

Seget Donji, Trogir, Split, Mostar and the spectacular Krka National Park



8 days now from **£849**PP

~~was from £899pp~~

8 days, June & September 2019 | Flying from Edinburgh, Glasgow or Aberdeen**

Modern resorts, scenic beaches, natural wonders and ancient Roman ruins, you can expect all this and more on our holiday staying on the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia. The towns along the coast are full of whitewashed buildings with terracotta roofs and there are lots of pretty little fishing villages just waiting to be explored.

EDINBURGH		
2019	was from	now from
9 JUNE	£1,029pp	£979pp
8 SEPT	£999pp	£949pp
29 SEPT	£899pp	£849pp

GLASGOW		
2019	was from	now from
9 JUNE	£1,029pp	£979pp
8 SEPT	£999pp	£949pp
29 SEPT	£909pp	£859pp

ABERDEEN**		
2019	was from	now from
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2019	was from	now from
11 JUNE	£1,089pp	£1,039pp
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17 SEPT	£1,069pp	£1,019pp
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17 SEPT	£1,049pp	£999pp
24 SEPT	£989pp	£939pp

PRESTWICK		
2019	was from	now from
5 JUNE	£1,049pp	£999pp
11 SEPT	£1,049pp	£999pp
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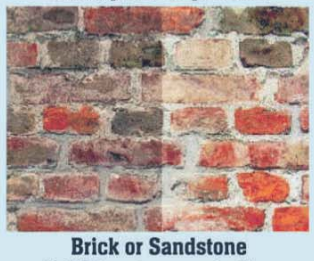

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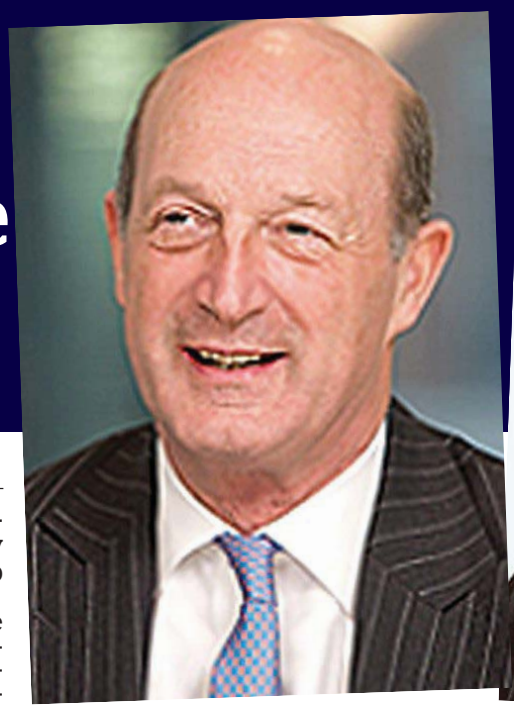
The loan barons at war over Britain's poorest borrowers

Fears for 2.6m customers as takeover battle for the Provvy turns ugly



Mud-slinging: NSF's John van Kuffeler and Malcolm Le May of Provident Financial

by ***James Burton***

REGULATORS face growing pressure to intervene in an increasingly vicious takeover battle for doorstep lender Provident Financial.

There are rising fears that vulnerable borrowers could be harmed as Non-Standard Finance steps up efforts to seize control of the Provvy, having launched a hostile £1.3bn takeover bid.

MPs and campaigners are now calling for action to ensure the deal does not hurt Provident Financial's 2.4m customers or the 180,000 who have borrowed from NSF.

It came as the Provvy launched another attack on NSF, branding its offer a 'dreadful deal'.

In response, NSF blasted the Provvy's management for failing customers, incompetence and a disregarding shareholders.

City analysts warned the spat is increasingly unedifying, particularly when the two are arguing over the right to lend to some of Britain's most hard-up families.

David Buik, of trading firm Core Spreads, said: 'Rhetoric like this is very counter-productive. In a high-risk business, shareholders want reassurance that the company will be run by responsible people who have the support and respect of the community.'

NSF boss John van Kuffeler ran the Provvy for 22 years and has pledged to boost profits if his bid to seize control succeeds. The 70-year-old is going head to head with the Provvy's chief executive, 61-year-old former investment banker Malcolm Le May.

NSF already has the backing of major Provvy shareholders Invesco Asset Management, Marathon Asset Management and fund manager Neil Woodford, who together have a stake of more than 50pc.

But in its latest broadside, the Provvy attacked NSF for accounting errors over a dividend payment that broke company law, saying it was a sign the firm could not be trusted. Provvy chairman Patrick Snowball said: 'These unlawful distributions are a telling indictment of the competency of the NSF team.

'At this point, there is no new revelation about this deal; it is still the same dreadful deal that it was on day one. It is more of a coup d'etat than a hostile takeover, spearheaded by a management team at NSF with a track record of value-destructive acquisitions, and facilitated by powerful shareholders.'

NSF said: 'The Provident board is determined to deflect from its history of self-inflicted wounds and incompetence – defective leadership, customer failings, destruction of shareholder value, erosion of shareholder trust and strategic vacuum.'

Campaigners are demanding the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) acts to ensure customers are not harmed by NSF's plans.

The FCA has already written to NSF to say that any attempts to exploit Provvy customers for bigger profits will not be tolerated.

Labour MP Stella Creasy wrote to City Minister John Glen yesterday, saying she has her eye on the deal and asking what sanctions there would be if Provident relaxed its own controls.

RBS braced for pay backlash

ROYAL Bank of Scotland investors have been urged to vote down chief executive Ross McEwan's £3.6m 'excessive pay packet'.

Shareholder advisory firm Pirc said elements of the award are 'inappropriate', and said he was paid 46 times more than the average bank employee.

Ahead of the bank's annual general meeting next week, it took issue with Mr McEwan's total variable pay – at 211.1pc of salary – describing it as 'excessive', as it is over the recommended limit of 200pc.

Pirc recommends shareholders reject the 62.4pc-taxpayer-owned bank's remuneration report.

The New Zealander's pay packet last year was a £1m basic salary, a £1m fixed share allowance and a £1.1m long-term incentive award.

Pay awards are expected to come under close scrutiny over the coming months. Investor advisory groups Glass Lewis and ISS are recommending shareholders back RBS's remuneration report.

McEwan has presided over a return to profit at RBS, which in February reported its second successive year in the black and announced a £1.6bn final dividend, resulting in a near £1bn windfall for the taxpayer.

Blackrock in bullish mood

MARKETS could rally sharply amid signs of solid growth in the US and China, according to the boss of investment titan Blackrock.

Better economic data and a pause in interest rate rises create 'Goldilocks' conditions for a rebound, Larry Fink said as Blackrock reinforced its position as the world's biggest fund manager, sucking in an extra £50bn to give it total assets of £5trillion.

Fink said many big investors are waiting for signs of solid growth before they pump money into stocks. He said: 'There's too much global pessimism. There's still a lot of money on the sidelines, and I think you'll see investors put money back into equities.'

Blackrock also raised the alarm about climate change. Richard Turnill, chief investment strategist, said: 'Decisive actions to curb carbon emissions could mitigate damage. Climate change is increasingly a risk that investors cannot afford to ignore.'

Netflix shares fall despite bumper earnings

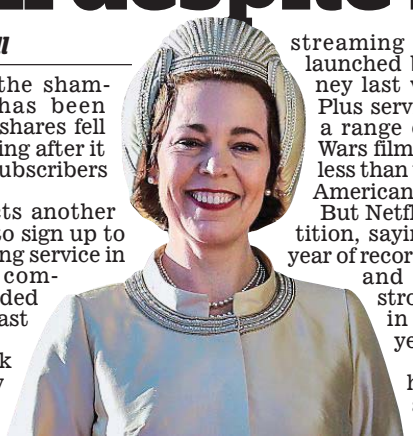
by ***Francesca Washtell***

STREAMING giant Netflix posted a bumper set of figures last night – but warned fewer new subscribers will sign up in the coming months.

The US tech giant, which is behind shows such as The Crown (*which will soon star Olivia Colman, pictured*) said it added 1.74m paid subscribers in its home market and 7.86m worldwide – outstripping both its own and Wall Street's estimates.

Netflix also outperformed in the amount of revenue it made in the first quarter – with turnover of £3.5bn, up 22pc, beating forecasts of £3.4bn. Its earnings rose 19pc to £264m – also surpassing estimates.

More than 25m households that have Netflix accounts have already watched David Attenborough show Our Planet, its most ambitious documentary project ever, and a documentary about the shambolic Fyre festival has been watched by 20m. But shares fell 5pc in after-hours trading after it said it will add fewer subscribers in the second quarter.



Netflix said it expects another 5m people worldwide to sign up to its film and TV streaming service in the second quarter, compared with 5.45m it added in the same period of last year.

The cooler outlook comes as the company faces increasing pressure from rival streaming services that are being launched by Disney and Apple. Disney last week launched its Disney Plus service in the US, which offers a range of Disney, Pixar and Star Wars films for $6.99 a month – much less than the $13 that Netflix charges Americans for its standard package.

But Netflix shrugged off the competition, saying it still expects another year of record annual subscriber growth and is looking forward to 'a strong slate of global content in the second half of the year'.

This includes new series of hit shows Stranger Things and Orange is the New Black, and new Martin Scorsese film The Irishman. Before the results were released, Deutsche Bank raised its rating on Netflix shares from 'hold' to 'buy'.

Analyst Bryan Kraft said Netflix is becoming 'a cultural necessity for people around the world.' He added that Netflix is increasing a 'magnet for talent' and that there are 'no other competing platforms that approach Netflix's reach'.

Netflix was founded in 1997 by entrepreneurs Reed Hastings and Marc Randolph in California. It was originally a postal DVD rental service but in 2007 it started offering customers the choice to stream films and TV shows online.

The company gained critical acclaim when it launched its first self-made TV show, House of Cards, in 2013, and now ploughs billions into making original content.

Now JD Sports leaves Ashley in the shade

Chain bucks high street gloom with record results

by ***Hannah Uttley***

JD SPORTS defied the High Street gloom to rake in record profits as it stretched its lead over rival Sports Direct.

Shares in the chain jumped to a record high after it posted a 15.4pc rise in profits to £399.9m in the year to February 2.

Same-store sales climbed 6pc as chunky Fila footwear and Vans Old Skool trainers flew off the shelves.

The bumper results will come as a blow for Sports Direct boss Mike Ashley, who in 2011 predicted that he could 'finish off' his rival.

Peter Cowgill, the chief executive of JD Sports, said: 'I don't think his prediction was quite right.

'Let's hope he's better with his gambling.'

Ashley, 54, has lost hundreds of millions of pounds on a series of ill-judged retail bets.

They include one on Debenhams which crashed into administration last week, wiping out his near-30pc stake. JD Sports has also been on a spree, snapping up US brand Finish Line for £396m and Liam Gallagher's menswear chain Pretty Green.

The Finish Line deal netted Ashley a £37m payout after he was forced to sell off his 9.85pc stake. Currently, JD Sports is preparing to fork out £90m for its smaller rival Footasylum.

JD Sports is now worth £5.6bn, a figure more than three times the value of Sports Direct, which is worth £1.6bn.

Cowgill added: 'Mike's a bright guy and he's gone down one route in terms of his High Street development and we've taken another route. We've stuck to our knitting largely and he's expanded over and beyond. As it stands at the moment I can only reflect on the results. I would never knock Mike Ashley in that respect.' JD Sports' roaring success is in contrast to many traditional retailers which are battling to keep hold of customers as more shoppers go online.

Just last week Debenhams crashed into administration, while retailers such as Topshop owner Arcadia, Marks & Spencer and New Look have been shutting stores.

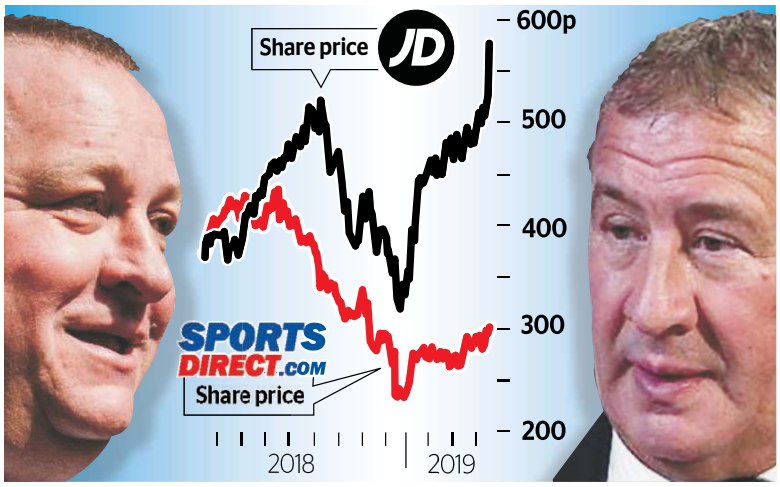
Cowgill explained that JD Sports has focused its attention on attracting and retaining younger shoppers, with the majority of its customers aged between 16 and 24.

'We've recognised the increasing relevance of millennials and generation Z and we have worked tirelessly at delivering consumer experience in both bricks and mortar and online,' he said.

Shares in the retailer jumped 8.4pc, or 44,6p, to 576.6p last night as investors celebrated the retailer's success.

Analysts at Peel Hunt said: 'It's hard to think of such an impressive showing anywhere else in retail and JD's sales growth and profit delivery is stellar, despite the negative background and awkward weather for outdoor.

'The shares have gone from strength to strength and we see no reason why this won't continue as the strength of the JD brand, its management and its general forward momentum show no sign of waning.'



Turf war: Sports Direct boss Mike Ashley and JD Sports chief Peter Cowgill

Huawei hits back in US spying row

from ***Matt Oliver*** *in Shenzhen, China*

THE cyber security chief of a controversial Chinese firm has accused the US of 'belittling national security' with spying claims.

John Suffolk, a former top UK civil servant, says concerns about Huawei were based on trying to thwart competition from China.

He said there was 'not much more' Huawei could do to persuade critics, and called on British ministers not to ban it from 5G networks.

Huawei is a major provider of telecoms equipment used by companies such as BT and Vodafone to transmit mobile phone and internet data.

But the US warns the firm's kit could be vulnerable to snooping by China, and wants European allies to shun it.

In China yesterday, Suffolk said: 'They're belittling national security. Some people you are never going to convince. Whether it is because they believe Huawei are terrible people or China is a terrible country, you don't know.'

The UK is reviewing rules which say who telecoms firms can source equipment from.

Suffolk, 61, called on the UK to set out security standards, rather than banning Huawei.

He was formerly chief information officer at Whitehall. His move to Huawei in 2011 saw him grilled by officials before he took the post.

Wave of interest in shipyard

MINISTERS are being inundated with plans for vessels to be built at Appledore Shipyard.

Sited at the mouth of the river Torridge near Barnstaple, it has been a shipbuilding hub since 1855, and shut last month when a lease held by defence giant Babcock International ran out.

The shipyard's owner Langham Industries is now on the hunt for new contracts and business offers so work can restart.

Leaked documents from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) seen by the Mail show an electric ferry, support boats for a tidal energy project in Bristol and two platforms for offshore oil and gas operations are among projects vying to be built at Appledore. A 90m vessel for a Polish firm, two fishing boats and the new Isles of Scilly ferry are also among the ventures.

The BEIS document said it has 'reached the point where we are now receiving unsolicited enquiries', and these are being worked up into more detailed business plans.

BEIS has put together a consortium, a mix of investors and companies seeking contractual work, and 'two respected entrepreneurs' have emerged to lead a business at the yard.

Tim Jones, of the South West Business Council, said: 'There are encouraging discussions.'

Chris Langham, head of Langham Industries which owns the freehold of the shipyard, said: 'I'm not aware of all these projects. I think some must be highly speculative. We stand ready to negotiate with potential operators or consortiums provided they're in a position to proceed and at the moment that isn't the case.'

BEIS said it did not comment on leaks.

Asda short-changing 3,000 staff says MP

AN MP says Asda is short-changing 3,000 staff with changes to contracts to end paid breaks.

The supermarket is in consultations to simplify terms for hourly paid workers and increase the basic pay to £9 per hour.

But Siobhain McDonagh, Labour MP for Mitcham and Morden, says staff could be £500 worse off per year.

In a letter she tweeted yesterday, she wrote: '£500+ is a huge amount of money and would have a significant impact on their livelihoods. I welcome any increase in basic hourly pay but this must not be used to disguise a significant cut for 3,000 staff.'

Employees will be asked to be more flexible and breaks would no longer be paid. Asda vice-president Anthony Hemmerdinger said: 'A key part of delivering great service is having the right colleagues in the right place at the right time, which is what this aims to achieve.'

G4S revenues rise amid takeover talk

TAKEOVER target G4S posted a jump in first-quarter revenue and said it is making good progress in a review to split off its cash business.

Revenue was 4.8pc higher than in the same period last year as chief executive Ashley Almanza said in a trading update there had been growth 'in all regions and divisions'.

It came as G4S, which runs UK prisons and is known for bungling security at the London 2012 Olympics, is eyed by Canadian rival Garda World, which may buy the world's largest listed security firm and has until May 8 to make an offer.

G4S's security division, which provides guards to major events, grew 4.9pc as it picked up more work in Africa and the Americas.

And a 4.4pc boost in sales in its cash arm, which transports and stores money, was helped by a 30pc jump in North America revenues.

G4S said in December it was looking to split off the cash business to focus on its security arm as it thinks a separation will make money for shareholders. Shares rose 1.7pc, or 3.9p, to 233.9p.

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FCA must stop this deal

Alex Brummer

CITY EDITOR

NON-STANDARD Finance (NSF) boss John van Kuffeler is one of the City's cavaliers. He has irrepressible confidence and managed to persuade shareholders Invesco and Woodford that the pursuit of much larger and profitable doorstep lender Provident Financial would be a walk in the park.

A 70-year-old Flemish aristocrat, van Kuffeler is as adventurous in business as he is in his personal life. His confidence extends to dismissing breaches of company law as 'technical infringements'.

But in a letter to investors, Provident chairman Patrick Snowball says breaches of the Companies Act, including the payment of dividends from reserves, were unlawful, an indictment of the NSF team and down to weak oversight.

Snowball accuses van Kuffeler of orchestrating a 'coup d'etat' by a management team with a record of 'value-destructive acquisitions'. Hostile takeovers are often bitterly contested but the mud-slinging in this deal is at an entirely different level.

The NSF's £1.3bn offer is opportunism dressed up as benevolence with little regard for the interest of customers. Provident, owner of the valuable Vanquis Bank, has 2.4m clients, many of whom are among the most vulnerable borrowers in Britain. This is a big bite for NSF, with just 180,000 customers and a lack of contemporary experience in managing something so large and complex.

In his letter, Snowball focuses on the lessening of competition and the possibility that the Competition and Markets Authority could take its probe to the next stage. If that happens the so-called 'irrevocable' votes from Invesco and Woodford would be unlocked and the deal would come off the rails.

It is fascinating that, having shouted victory from the rooftops ten days ago when NSF passed the 50pc mark for shareholder acceptances, the company has so far failed miserably to mop up the rest of the votes and had to seek an extension from the City referee, The Takeover Panel. The real reasons why this deal should not be done are ones of financial prudence and stability.

The City regulator, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), made its position clear last month. In a letter to NSF, it emphasised that high-cost credit and protecting vulnerable consumers is at the heart of everything it does. Since then, the FCA has faced severe criticism and likely Commons hearings over its lax scrutiny of the collapsed mini-bond firm London Capital & Finance (LCF).

The better-off customers of LCF and poor clients of NSF/Provident could not be more different in terms of the sections of society served. The high-cost lending market is the province of the most desperate in society.

The very idea that Provident clients should find themselves at the heart of a financially-driven takeover run by an overweening, ethically indifferent entrepreneur is unacceptable.

Every day which passes is more uncertainty for customers who don't deserve to be pawns in a down and dirty City battle.

Keep running

THE rise and rise of JD Sports speaks volumes for the staying power of its principal owners, the Rubin family-controlled Pentland group. Unlike Mike Ashley of Sports Direct, who likes to buy retailers for the hell of it, JD Sports has a sense of direction.

Profits, at £340m, are motoring along with store sales as it takes advantage of athletic wear as fashion. One would normally caution any UK retailer taking aim at the American market, given the number of firms that have come a cropper.

But there ought to be optimism about JD's assault through its purchase of Finish Line. Pentland has good form in the US, dating back to when it turned an unknown footwear company, Reebok, into a global superbrand. Investors are certainly putting their trust in JD, with a market value of £5.6bn. It is now worth three Sports Directs and more than Marks & Spencer, and the FTSE 100 could soon beckon.

Who would have thought?

Well done

FRENCH patriotism is boundless in a way which is different from the UK.

Francois Pinault, owner of Chateau Latour, was the first to pop up with €100m (£86.5m) to rebuild Notre Dame, only to be outdone a few hours later by fellow billionaire Bernard Arnault, of LVMH, with a €200m (£173m) donation. Not to be left out L'Oreal, along with the controlling Bettencourt Meyers families, pledged €200m.

SURPRISE RECOVERY BOOSTS ONLINE FASHION RETAILER

ONLINE retailer Zalando is set to bag an unexpected profit amid booming demand in Europe.

The firm, which is Europe's biggest online-only fashion retailer, expects profits of up to £8.5m for the first three months of the year. Analysts had been expecting a loss of £8.5m.

Shares in the Frankfurt-listed company jumped 10.6pc, or €3.98, to €41.56.

Zalando normally makes a loss during the period due to it selling off stock at a lower price after Christmas.

Adam Tomlinson, analyst at Liberum, said: 'This is a positive short-term development. It has built an infrastructure uniquely placed to fend off competition and has a logistics network that is looking increasingly superior to Amazon.'

Zalando sells more than 1,900 brands including Nike, Ralph Lauren, Adidas and Levi's.

It has struggled recently amid fierce competition and heavy discounting among online rivals.

Meanwhile, profits have been under pressure as it piles investment into logistics and technology to improve its online delivery.

Zalando is trying to grow profitability by charging brands a commission to sell through its website rather than buying and selling products itself.

David Schroder, chief financial officer, said: 'We are pleased with our performance in the quarter.'

Galliford Try plunges 20pc on profit shock

by ***Francesca Washtell***

GALLIFORD TRY lost more than a fifth of its value after a profit warning related to its struggling construction arm.

On a brutal day for investors, shares fell 20.5pc, or 149p, to 576.5p yesterday, wiping £165m off its value.

The rout came after it said full-year profits would be £30m to £40m lower than forecast by analysts. It had been expected to make £156m.

Galliford has now launched a review of its construction arm saying that it will 'reduce the size' of the business.

It is just the latest Government contractor to suffer following the collapse of Carillion and Interserve.

Its troubles come a day after Kier Group's new boss Andrew Davies launched a review to bolster his firm's finances.

FTSE 250-listed Galliford said the biggest hit to profits would come from fresh costs related to the £1.3bn Queensferry Crossing (*pictured*), a bridge that connects Edinburgh and Fife. It has also struggled with higher bills linked to a bypass in Aberdeen after a project partner, Carillion, collapsed into administration, and problems with unnamed contracts that could cost it as much as £38m.

Its construction arm's wafer-thin profit margin is less than 1pc.

Galliford is split up into three units: construction, its Linden Homes housebuilding arm, and a partnerships business which works on social housing and joint ventures with local authorities.

In the company's half-year results in February, construction accounted for more than half of Galliford's £1.4bn revenues, but just 7pc of its £94m operating profit.

It said yesterday that it will 'reduce the size' of the business to focus on its key strengths, taking fewer contracts on in future.

An evaluation will finish next month and the outcome will be revealed on May 21.

£2.3bn Travelex float

PAYMENTS firm Finablr is to list on the London Stock Exchange in a float tipped to value it at up to £2.3bn.

Finablr, which owns foreign exchange firm Travelex, is set to raise £153m from selling new shares when it hits the stock market next month.

Shareholders in the United Arab Emirates-based firm founded by 76-year-old Indian billionaire Bavaguthu Shetty, will also sell parts of their stakes.

It comes a week after Network International, another UAE payments business, listed in London. Its shares rose 20pc on the first day, valuing it at around £2.4bn.

Finablr processed more than 150m transactions last year, serving clients such as Google India.

Unicredit's £1bn US fine

ITALIAN bank Unicredit has been fined £1bn for doing illegal business with Iran.

The lender's German arm Hypovereinsbank worked with clients in Iran, Cuba, Libya and the Sudan between 2002 and 2011, despite US sanctions.

Staff hid suspicious transactions from computer systems, say prosecutors.

Linda Lacewell, of the New York Department of Financial Services, said: 'It prioritised profit over compliance and security by engaging in billions of dollars of transactions with clients from sanctioned nations, and then working to cover its tracks.' Fifteen banks have been fined for busting sanctions.

Tablet firm swallowed

FOOD delivery operator Just Eat has acquired Practi, a software service that provides independent restaurants and small chains with tablet-based point-of-sale systems.

The deal, for an initial £6.7m, is meant to strengthen its relationship with restaurant partners It will see the delivery giant deploy new tablets or install Practi software on Just Eat orderpads to provide a system dealing with payment handling, management and kitchen operations.

Just Eat interim chief executive Peter Duffy said restaurants were calling for this type of software. It follows a £22m deal to buy software provider Flyt in January. Shares rose 0.8pc, or 5.8p, to 738.8p.

FTSE 100	FTSE 250	FTSE All Share	DOW	NIKKEI	HANG SENG	DAX	Brent Spot	Gold
7469.92	19923.38	4092.04	26452.66	22221.66	30129.87	12101.32	71.16	1276.30
33.05 0.44%	116.29 0.59%	18.92 0.46%	67.89 0.26%	52.55 0.24%	319.15 1.07%	81.04 0.67%	0.15 0.21%	9.40 0.73%
H:7877.45 L:6584.68	H:21324.02 L:17090.47	H:4324.41 L:3596.07	H:26828.39 L:21792.20	H:24270.62 L:19155.74	H:31541.08 L:24585.53	H:13169.92 L:10381.51	H:71.73 L:53.21	H:1343.80 L:1276.30

£/$ 1.3049 ▼ 0.0056 H:1.4227 L:1.2523 £/€ 1.1555 ▼ 0.0034 H:1.1754 L:1.0998

Tourist Rates £1 Buys

Aus$ 1.74	Den Kr 8.22	Jpn Y 139.41	SAR 17.26	Turk l 7.21
Can$ 1.67	Euro € 1.10	NZ$ 1.80	Sw Fr 1.25	US$ 1.25

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UK cyber firm bouncing back as bid rumours swirl

MARKET REPORT

by Lucy White

RUMOURS are circulating around the City that **NCC Group**, a British cyber security company, could soon be snapped up by a predator.

Its shares have been creeping up over the last few weeks, after warnings of a UK slowdown knocked 31pc off its value in January. Over the last month, they are up 19.4pc.

NCC, which specialises in 'ethical hacking' to help businesses find weaknesses in their systems, was born when the Government's National Computing Centre sold its commercial divisions in 1999.

Beady-eyed observers have their money on private equity firms, IT giant IBM and, possibly, computer company Dell as potential bidders. Sources close to the company said it was not in takeover talks, but that hasn't stopped traders speculating that an offer could be on the horizon. The stock was up 2.9pc, or 4.8p, at 172.2p.

Card Factory was proving that greetings cards aren't dead yet, as it opened an average of almost one store a week last year. Same-store sales at the chain were flat compared to the previous year, although chief executive Karen Hubbard claimed this as a victory in a year when shoppers shunned the High Street.

Although profits slipped 8.3pc to £66.6m, revenue climbed 3.3pc to £436m, helped along by a massive 56.3pc rise in sales on its website.

Hubbard said that, already this year, it had seen record seasonal performances from Valentine's Day and Mothers' Day.

After opening 51 stores over the year, bringing its total to 1,200, Card Factory is still planning to expand. It has tested selling products in Aldi in the UK, in an Australian retailer and with a partner in Jersey. Shares climbed 10pc, or 17.7p, to 194.8p.

Operations haven't run so smoothly for mining giant **Rio Tinto** so far this year.

Tropical cyclones in Australia battered its iron ore business, causing damage and forcing it to lower its guidance for shipments.

The miner shipped 69.1m tonnes of iron ore in the first three months of the year, 14pc less than a year previously. It now hopes to transport between 333m and 343m tonnes for the whole of 2019, down from 338m to 350m tonnes. Shares slid by 0.6pc, or 30p, to 4672.5p.

Britain's jobs market isn't coming to the standstill some feared it might in the run-up to Brexit, says white-collar recruiter Hays.

In the first three months of 2019, Hays' fee revenue from the UK and Ireland edged up by 3pc. But growth in fees slowed in Germany, where the trade spat between the US and China has also weighed on the economy.

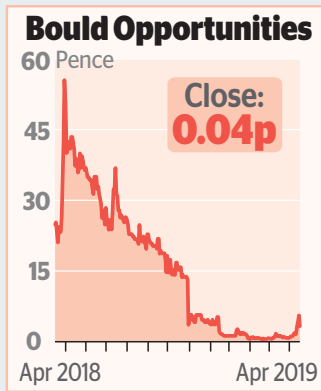
The total net fee growth for the third quarter of Hays' financial year hit 6pc, missing analysts' expectations of 7pc. Shares were down 2.6pc, or 4.3p, at 158.8p.

In another uneventful day among Britain's biggest listed companies, the **FTSE 100** ended a marginal 0.4pc, or 33.05 points, up at 7469.92. On the junior market AIM, warnings of tough trading conditions pushed down shares at **Tatton Asset Management**, even though it grew assets under management from £4.9bn to £6.1bn for the year ending in March.

Chief executive Paul Hogarth was 'disappointed' with the lack of growth at Paradigm Consulting, the part of Tatton that helps wealth managers and financial advisers comply with regulation. Shares fell 10.4pc, or 24p, to 207p.

Emerging markets specialist **Ashmore**, however, climbed 6.3pc or 28.8p to 484.2p as it raked in £3.8bn of new money from clients. Its strong investment performance generated a further £2.8bn, and chief executive Mark Coombs said calmer political relations in the developed world were helping emerging economies.

STOCK WATCH



■ **Bould Opportunities, formerly known as Photonstar LED Group prior to putting its lighting business into administration, is in trouble itself.**

It doesn't have enough money for its new plan to buy an as-yet unnamed company which wants to be listed on London's junior market.

Investors seemed to have been hoping for a miracle as shares climbed, but Bould said it may have to run to investors to raise more cash. Shares fell 27.4pc, or 0.02p, to 0.04p.

TOP RISERS

	CLOSING PRICE	DAILY CHANGE	REASON
Card Factory	194.8p	+9.99%	Positive outlook
JD Sports	576.6p	+8.38%	Strong results
Games Workshop	3974p	+6.89%	Investor sentiment
Ashmore	484.2p	+6.32%	Recovering markets
Wizz Air	3447p	+3.54%	Lufthansa jitters

TOP FALLERS

	CLOSING PRICE	DAILY CHANGE	REASON
Galliford Try	576.5p	-20.54%	Profit warning
IP Group	97p	-3.39%	Profit taking
Mediclinic	303.8p	-2.66%	Broker downgrade
Hays	158.8p	-2.64%	German slowdown
Mondi	1759p	-2.49%	Sector sluggishness

			High	Low
Aerospace & Defence				
Aston Martin	930	-7	1374⅛	908⅛
BAE Systems	509¾	+5¼	676⅛	445½
Cobham	114⅛	+¼	131¼	96⅛
Meggitt	516⅝xd	-6¼	572	449¼
QinetiQ	289	+1⅛	311⅛	219⅛
Rolls-Royce	901¼	+10¼	1094	759¼
Senior	226	+2	334⅛	185⅛
TI Fluid Systems	215		290	156⅛
Ultra Electronics	1526xd		1743	1232
Banks				
Banco Santander	400	+8¼	485¼	344
Barclays	167⅛	-¼	216⅛	146⅛
BGEO Group	1679	-6	3650	1310
CYBG	212⅛	-2⅛	364¼	173⅛
HSBC Hldgs	662¼	+6⅛	745¼	600¼
Lloyds Banking	65⅛xd	+⅛	67⅛	50
Metro Bank	826½	-13½	3518	758
Royal Bank of Scot	262½xd		296	203
Stan Chartered	672⅝xd	+1⅛	770¼	519¼
TBC Bank Group	1550	-22	1886	1290
Beverages				
Barr (AG)	829	+3	829	665
Britvic	931	-1	956	702
Coca-Cola HBC	2664	+7	2801	2244
Diageo	3117½	-3	3141	2451½
Chemicals				
Croda	5044xd	+6	5318	4438
Elementis	178½	+1⅛	305	151½
Johnson Matt	3400	+16	3823	2620
Synthomer	410¼	+4	575½	347⅛
Victrex	2476	+4	3408	2156
Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty	267¼	-1⅛	311⅛	230⅛
CRH	2549xd	+29	2857	1971½
Galliford Try	576½	-149	1104	565½
Grafton Gp	905½	+16	905½	630
Ibstock	256⅛	+¼	305⅛	193⅛
Kier Group	366⅝xd	-8⅛	1092	333⅛
Marshalls	636	-6½	642½	399¼
Polypipe Group	425	-1¼	432⅛	307¼
Electricity				
Contour Global	209½	-4	264	150⅛
Drax Gp	370	+3	427¼	294⅛
SSE	1135	-2	1440½	1032½
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Halma	1756½	+11	1778	1200
Morgan Advanced	274⅛	-1⅛	363	237
Renishaw	4592	+118	5685	3670
Spectris	2758	+10	2908	1966½
Equity Investment Instruments				
3i Infrastructure	280		283½	211¼
Aberforth Smlr Cos	1268		1442	1120
AJ Bell	341	-7	350	230
Alliance Trust	772	+6	785	672
Baillie Giff Japan	781	+4	869	663
Bankers InvTst	906	+6	906	766
BlackRock Smlr	1434	+20	1600	1160
BMO Global Smlr	1332	+14	1495	1220
Brit Empire Trust	736	+1	767	660
Caledonia Inv	3015	+15	3015	2650
City of London IT	427½	+1½	442½	376
Edin Inv Trust	646	+4	712	588
F&C Inv Trust	700xd	+3	741	616
Fidelity China SPE	247½	+1	268	182⅛
Fidelity Euro Values	229½xd	+½	239	202
Fidelity Spec Val	267	+2	280	220
Finsbury G&I Tst	854xd	+6	854	740
GCP Infra Inv	126¼	+1⅛	130¼	118⅛
Genesis Emg Mrkts	739	+8	739	615
Greencoat UK	140¼		142¼	118⅛
Harbourvest Glb	1466	+4	1476	1184
Herald Inv Trust	1302	+18	1370	1055
HICL Infr	163¼	-¼	166½	161
JPM American	439xd	-2	472	381½
JPM Emerg Mkt	958xd	+8	958	759
JPM Indian IT	730	+8	734	566
JPM Japan IT	410½	+7½	472	367
Jupiter European	762	+7	895	666
Jupiter Fund Mngt	395¼	+6¼	488	287⅛
Mercantile IT	206¼	+1¼	2250	168
Monks Inv Tst	882	+11	882	710
Murray Intl Tst	1180xd		1208	1056
NB Glbl Fltg Rate	91		94½	87⅛
Pantheon Intl	2120	-5	2200	1890
Perpetual Inc&Gth	334	+1½	375	301½
Pershing Square	1372	+2	1372	889
Personal Assets	40450	+100	40650	38900
Polar Cap Tech Tst	1338	+14	1386	1066
Renewables Infra	122⅛	-¼	123¼	104⅛
RIT Cap Partners	2090xd	+5	2130	1892
Riverstone Energy	960	+18	1298	934
Schroder Asia	461½	+5½	481	379
Scottish Inv Tst	807xd	+4	902	748
Scottish Mortgage	530½	+7½	568¼	441⅛
Sequoia Econ Infra	113⅛	-⅛	114¼	105½
Smithson Inv Trust	1210	+16	1210	1000¼
Syncona	259½	-½	302½	193¼
Temple Bar IT	1352	+10	1354	1116
Templeton Em Mkts	787	+5	787	649
Vietnam Enterprise	439		480	390
VinaCapital Vietna	328½xd	-3	350	306
Witan Invest	1070	+14	1138	948
Woodford Patient	81½	+¼	91	73¼
Wwide Healthcare	2665	-10	2915	2325
Food Producers				
Assoc Brit Foods	2529	-12	2836	2041
Bakkavor	130		206	113
Cranswick	2896	+4	3460	2472
Dairy Crest Gp	620½		643	413¼
Greencore Gp	217⅛	+4¼	217⅛	154
Hilton Food Gp	955	-5	1005	850
Tate & Lyle	737¼	+2¼	737¼	559
Unilever	4372	+26	4486	3861
Forestry & Paper				
Mondi	1759xd	-45	2236	1584
General Financial				
3i Group	1068½	+5½	1068½	756¼
Amigo Holdings	257	+8½	310	154½
Ashmore Gp	484¼	+28¼	484¼	337
Brewin Dolphin	335	+3	388	295⅛
Charter Court	367½xd	-1	368½	228¼
Close Brothers	1605xd	+44	1660	1406
Coats Group	82½	+¾	91¼	69¼
Hargrvs Lansdwn	2205	+57	2270	1633
IG Gp	536	+8⅛	954½	510
Integrafin Holdings	372	+7	401	269
Intermediate Cap	1183	+3	1203	899
Intl Public Prtnshps	159xd	+¾	162¼	141⅛
Investec	509	+9⅛	594¼	423⅛
IP Group	97	-3⅛	142¼	87¼
John Laing Gp	398¼	-3¼	402	264¼
London Stock Exch	4936	+73	4944	3867
Man Group	151⅛xd	+2⅛	196¼	126¼
Onesavings	447⅛xd	+1	449⅛	330
Paragon	463¾	+3¾	552½	379¼
Plus500	521¾xd	+10¾	2040	495
Provident Fin	516¼	+¾	697¼	488⅛
Quilter	156⅛	+1⅛	156⅛	110⅛
Rathbone Brothers	2420	+20	2652	2198
Schroders	3161xd	+72	3488	2334
TP ICAP	286¾xd	+1¼	480⅛	259¼
Health Care Equipment & Services				
Convatec	137⅛xd	+1⅛	239	118½
Mediclinic Intl	303¾	-8¼	706⅛	301¼
NMC Health	2504	+12	4120	2192
Smith & Neph	1489xd	+7½	1545	1258
UDG Hlthcare	646½	+5½	940	551
Housebuilders				
Barratt Devel	623xd	+4¼	625¼	434
Bellway	3226	+36	3433	2419
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	3847	-10	4321	3226
Bovis Homes Gp	1125xd	+9	1301½	828
Countryside Prop	320¼	+¼	384	270
Crest Nicholson	400⅛xd	+1	506½	296⅛
McCarthy & Stone	131¼	-¼	142⅛	97½
Persimmon	2348	+36	2880	1859½
Redrow	638xd	-1	647	460¼
Taylor Wimpey	190¼xd	+1⅛	205	129¼
Industrial Transportation				
BBA Aviation	262⅛xd	+2¼	350	207
Clarkson	2360	+10	3105	1878
Fisher (J) & Sons	1976xd	+2	2260	1600
Royal Mail	263½	-¼	631	234⅛
Stobart Gp Ord	156	+2⅛	266½	142¼
Industrials				
Bodycote	903	+7½	1055	676
Hill & Smith	1300	-2	1523	902½
IMI	1043xd	+21	1242	870
Melrose Ind	192¼xd	+1⅛	247	146¼
RHI Magnesita	4970	-24	5350	3318
Rotork	318½xd	+2	361⅛	235¼
RPC Group	787	-¼	834¼	632¼
Smith (DS)	352¼xd	-6¼	579¼	292¼
Smiths Gp	1536½xd	+151	801	1279½
Smurfit Kappa Gp	2319xd	+20	3292	1934
Spirax-Sarco	8040	+30	8040	5645
Vesuvius	642	+1	662	473¼
Weir Gp	1762½	+41½	2325	1240
Leisure Goods				
Games Workshp	3974	+256	4015	2390
Life Insurance				
Aviva	426¼xd	+7⅛	552	364⅛
Just Group	68¼	+1⅛	150⅛	58¼
Lancashire Hldgs	680	+8	680	530
Legal & General	289⅛	+1⅛	289⅛	223¼
Phoenix Gp	716¾xd	+9⅛	803½	544
Prudential	1748½xd	+46½	1954½	1340
St James Place	1117xd	+30	1240½	914
Stan Life Aberdeen	274¾xd	+3	473⅛	224⅛
Media				
Ascential	352	-3⅛	465	337¼
Auto Trader Gp	557⅞	+12¼	557⅞	338½
Daily Mail&Gen Tst	673¼	+3⅛	774	557
Entertainment One	465⅞	-1⅛	476¼	268
Euromny Inst Inv	1250		1450	1132
Informa	785¼	+3¼	859	605¼
ITV	134⅛xd	+1¼	180⅛	122⅛
Moneysprmkt.com	347⅛xd	+2⅛	372⅛	264
Pearson	825xd	-10¼	1027½	774⅛
RELX	1668½	+20	1769½	1491½
Rightmove Group	540⅛	+9¼	540⅛	420⅛
WPP	909⅛	+24⅛	1360½	800⅛
Mining				
Acacia Mining	169⅛	+1½	256⅛	96⅛
Anglo American	2176xd	+11	2226	1464⅛
Antofagasta	1002½		1149	727¼
BHP Group	1909⅛	+6¼	1944¼	1490⅛
Centamin	83⅛	-1⅛	164⅛	83⅛
Evraz	659¼	+15	659¼	402⅛
Ferrexpo	301¼	+4⅛	301¼	143½
Fresnillo	779	-5⅛	1340	746⅛
Glencore	334	+4	400⅛	269
Hochschild Mining	187½	-4¼	224⅛	149⅛
Kaz Minerals	723¼	+11⅛	1076	436¼
Polymet Int	814⅛	+10⅛	894	597¼
Rio Tinto	4672½xd	-304	7712	3486
Sirius Minerals	21⅞	+½	38¼	18
Nonlife Insurance				
Admiral Gp	2281	+35	2281	1870
Beazley	557½	+10	619½	492⅛
Direct Line Ins	342⅛xd	+4¼	376¼	304⅛
Hastings Gp Hldgs	231	+2⅛	287¼	174
Hiscox	1643	+14	1711	1418
RSA Ins Gp	543xd	+5	681¼	496⅛
Oil & Gas Producers				
BP	568⅛	-1¼	598¼	485⅛
Cairn Energy	166	-¼	267⅛	140
Energean Oil&Gas	839	-7	846	507
Premier Oil	101¼	+¼	143⅛	55⅛
R Dutch Shell A	2468		2748½	2213
R Dutch Shell B	2492	+1½	2841	2227
Tullow Oil	240½xd	-¼	276	165⅛
Oil Equipment & Services				
Hunting	650	+8	914	453⅛
Petrofac	521¼	-⅛	663⅛	381½
Wood Gp(J)	518⅞	+3⅛	796⅛	489⅛
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology				
AstraZeneca	6015	+21	6525	4955½
BTG	834	+½	853	475
Dechra Pharma	2688	-40	3168	2014
Genus	2336	+4	2992	2098
GlaxoSmithKline	1554¼	+4¼	1621⅛	1407⅛
Hikma Pharma	1739xd	-8½	2025	1184½
Indivior	42½	+½	496¼	30
PZ Cussons	191¼	+¼	252¼	178⅛
Reckitt Benckiser	5874	+51	7155	5443
Real Estate				
Assura	57½xd		60⅛	52⅛
Big Yellow Gp	1048	-1	1049	852½
British Land	609xd	+2¼	697	523
Captl & Count Prop	241⅞	+1⅛	308⅛	226¼
CLS Hldgs	246	-1	255	195⅛
Daejan Hldgs	5810	-140	6400	5600
Derwent London	3188	-2	3291	2761
F&C Comm Prop	119xd	+¼	155	117
Grainger	256⅛	+⅛	322	205¼
Grt Portland Est	745¼	+2¼	773⅛	652¼
Hammerson	336⅛xd	+2⅛	561¼	322⅛
Intu Properties	102	-1¼	207¼	102
Land Securities	933¼xd	+6⅛	989½	791¼
LondonMetric Prop	201¼xd	+1¼	201¼	172¼
NewRiver Retail	246xd	+3	297½	195
Primary Hlth Prop	132¼xd	+¼	132¼	106⅛
Safestore Hldgs	647½	+2½	657	499⅛
Savills	921xd	-4	984½	678½
SEGRO	681¼xd	+6¼	686¼	585¼
Shaftesbury	856½	-4	1015	817
St Modwen Props	406	+½	425¼	365
TR Property IT	399	+5	433½	353½
Tritax Big Box	150¼	+¼	156⅛	130
UK Comm Prop	88¼	+⅛	90⅛	81
Unite Group	934xd	+8	949	797½
Workspace Gp	992	+2	1165	789½
Retailers				
B&M	399⅛	+3⅛	426¼	278⅛
Burberry Gp	1954½	-5½	2325	1623½
Card Factory	194¼	+17¼	247⅛	162⅛
Dixons Carphone	149½	+3⅛	234¼	116¼
Dunelm Gp	883½xd	+3½	912½	482¼
Greggs	1861	+9	1861	942
Howden Joinery	523⅛	-2⅛	539	416⅛
Inchcape	615½	+5½	799	486⅛
JD Sports Fashion	576⅞	+44⅞	576⅞	318½
Just Eat	738¼	+5¼	883⅛	533¼
Kingfisher	259½	+3¼	318⅛	205⅛
Marks & Spencer	281½	+2¼	314½	242⅛
Morrison (WM)	222⅛	-1½	269⅛	211¼
Next	5732	+44	6202	3991
Ocado Gp	1407		1435	504⅛
Pets at Home Gp	146⅛	+3⅛	163¼	110
Saga	57	+1¼	138¼	55⅛
Sainsbury(J)	231¼	-2⅛	341½	223¼
Sports Direct Intl	301⅛	+5⅛	436⅛	233¼
SSP Group	718⅛	+4⅛	742¼	613¼
Ted Baker	1520	+20	2764	1420
Tesco	249¼	+⅛	266¼	189½
Vivo Energy	129⅛	-1¼	187	96
WH Smith	2136	+6	2186	1697
Software & Computer Services				
Avast	284	-¼	312¼	208¼
Aveva Gp	3262	-4	3350	2060
Computacenter	1078	+12	1620	952
FDM Group	935	-1	1128	734
Funding Circle	318	+2	410	287⅛
Micro Focus Intl	1940½	-6½	2067	1184
Playtech	442⅛	+3⅛	833⅛	361¼
Sage Group	711⅛	+3¼	716¼	525⅛
Softcat	860xd	+1½	888	565
Sophos	362¼	+5¼	639	298¼
Support Services				
Aggreko	855	+7¼	882	641¼
Ashtead Gp	2106	+20	2438	1586½
Babcock Intl Grp	524	+9⅛	862⅛	472¼
BCA Market	213¼	+2	242	159
Bunzl	2551	+21	2551	2070
Capita	129½	+3	200¼	102¼
DCC	6956	+58	7565	5555
Diploma	1591	+20	1591	1150
Electrocomp	627¼	+3	761⅛	480
Equiniti	221xd	+¼	287	186¼
Essentra	429⅞	+10¼	507	325⅛
Experian	2162	+5	2192	1570½
Ferguson	5402	+2	6556	4749
G4S	233⅞	+3⅞	282	175⅞
Hays	158¼xd	-4¼	212	135¼
Homeserve	1129	+25	1129	722
Intertek Gp	5228	+22	6014	4387
IWG	334½	+½	334½	199¾
Pagegroup	528½	-1½	623½	432¼
Rentokil Initial	368xd	+1¼	368	272⅞
Sanne Group	561	+11	724	450
Serco	123⅞	-2¼	136½	84⅛
SIG	144¼	+⅛	149¼	102¼
Travel & Leisure	1429½xd	+2½	1475½	970
Technology Hardware & Equipment				
Spirent Comms	146¼xd	+2¼	161¼	110⅛
Telecoms				
BT Gp	229⅞	+2½	264⅛	203
Inmarsat	547	+2	632¼	356⅛
Talktalk Telecom	123⅞	+⅛	137	96½
Telecom Plus	1490	+4	1524	1010
Vodafone Gp	142⅞	+⅛	214	131⅛
Tobacco				
Br Am Tob	3127xd	+3½	4222½	2375
Imperial Brands	2503	-12	2987½	2310
Travel & Leisure				
888 Holdings	156¾xd	+3¼	324¼	151⅛
Carnival	4046	+62	5000	3659
Cineworld Group	317¾	+6⅛	323⅛	245
Compass Gp	1725½	-28	1825	1471½
Dominos Pizza	251¼xd	+⅛	386⅛	224⅛
easyJet	1205	+28½	1796	1009
El Group	213⅛	+4¼	216	125⅛
FirstGroup	100	-⅛	117½	79¼
Go-Ahead Gp	1892xd	+2	2078	1388
Greene King	659	-1⅛	678	472¼
GVC Hldgs	642xd	+20⅛	1170	507½
Interconti Htls	4879xd	+405	2114¼	4145⅛
Intl Cons Airl	553	+9⅛	726⅛	504
Merlin Ents	354½xd	+1¼	410½	307⅛
Mill & Copth Hotels	444xd	-8	570	444
Mitchells & Butlers	266½	-3½	291⅛	241⅛
National Express	412⅛	-1⅛	433¼	361⅛
Paddy Power Bet	6502xd	+154	9110	5525
Rank Gp	158¼	-2¼	194	135
Stagecoach Gp	119¼	-1½	177	119¼
TUI AG	815⅛	+20¼	1810½	713¼
Wetherspoon (JD)	1323	-3	1366	1066
Whitbread	4831	-4	5114	3883
William Hill	167	+1¼	336⅛	149½
Wizz Air Holdings	3447	+118	3797	2329
Utilities				
Centrica	107	-2	163⅛	107
National Grid	819⅛	-1¼	889¼	748¼
Pennon	740	+7¼	812⅛	652⅛
Severn Trent	1974½	+12	2091	1770
United Utilities	824	-⅛	873⅛	682⅛

*Ex-Dividend

Source: The Press Association

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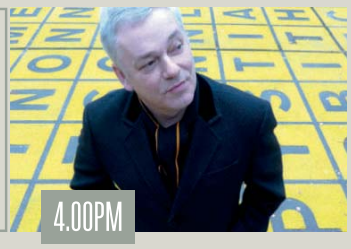
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5.00PM EDDI READER

6.20PM THE PRIMITIVES

7.20PM STEPHANIE CHEAPE

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DOUBT OVER TOO DARN HOT

By MARCUS TOWNEND
Racing Correspondent

TRAINER John Gosden will decide whether favourite Too Darn Hot can run in the Qipco 2,000 Guineas after this weekend.

The unbeaten colt, owned by composer Lord Lloyd Webber, missed the Greenham Stakes at Newbury last Saturday with a leg issue and his Classic run is in the balance.

Gosden said: 'There was heat in the splint bone which is why we couldn't run. It was only six days ago but has improved a great deal. Over the weekend one's got to be making decisions. It is not one of these things where you um and ah up to the race.

'After the weekend I will know and make a decision.' Dewhurst Stakes winner Too Darn Hot is 6-4 for the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket on May 4.

A clutch of Guineas possibles, headed by Saeed bin Suroor's Royal Marine, line up in the Craven Stakes at Newmarket today.

Andrew Balding-trained Shine So Bright earned his place in the 2,000 Guineas place with victory in yesterday's European Free Handicap.

Gosden's Kick On, winner of the Feilden Stakes, is likely to be aimed at the French 2,000 Guineas at Longchamp on May 12.

SOUTHWELL SSR

ROBIN GOODFELLOW	GIMCRACK
6.00 PANATOS (nap)	6.00 Quila Saeda
6.30 Casement	6.30 Casement
7.00 Warrior's Valley	7.00 Mininggold
7.30 High Command (nb)	7.30 Ripplet
8.00 Parion	8.00 Inspired Thought
8.30 Gunnabedun	8.30 Deconso

6.00 —HANDICAP (6) £6,569 added (£3,105) 1m 4f 14yds (14)

1 (8) 526 MUNDERSFIELD 46 (H) D M Simcock 5-9-7 Dylan Hogan (5) 77
2 (5) 67L RED TOUCH 14 (V) (C3) M Appleby 7-9-7 Alistair Rawlinson 75
3 (10) 477 PANATOS 18 A Dunn 4-9-6 Rossa Ryan 77
4 (13) 649- INTERMODAL 126 (P) Julia Brooke 5-9-5 Harrison Shaw (5) 77
5 (4) 255- MOTAHASSEN 168 D Carroll 5-9-5 Jason Hart 76
6 (1) 0-80 LET'S BE HAPPY 36 (D2) Miss M Rowland 5-9-4 W Cox (3) 75
7 (12) 79-9 PLACE DES VOSGES 17 (PT) D Menuisier 4-9-4 P J McDonald 76
8 (11) 1-L3 QUILA SAEDA 14 M Appleby 5-9-4 Theodore Ladd (5) 77
9 (7) 236 CONTINGENCY FEE 7 (HP) P McEntee 4-9-2 Grace McEntee (7) 77
10 (14) 0/6-0 FOUR MILE BEACH J14 M Chapman 6-9-2 Rachel Richardson —
11 (6) 614 GOING NATIVE 18 (C&D) Olly Williams 4-9-1 Rhona Pindar (7) 76
12 (2) 8-6L ZAHRAANI 74 J R Jenkins 4-8-11 Kieran O'Neill 61
13 (9) 282 SCHINDLERS ARK 14 J Chapple-Hyam 5-8-9 Charlie Bennett 77
14 (3) 5-22 THECORNISHBARRON 14 B Ellison 7-8-9 Cam Hardie ●78

Probable SP: 9-2 Thecornishbarron, 5 Contingency Fee, 6 Motahassen, 7 Mundersfield, Schindlers Ark.

6.30 —HANDICAP (5) £7,521 added (£3,752) 1m 13yds (11)

1 (10) L8-1 CASEMENT (5lbex) 8 (D2) M Appleby 5-9-9 Alistair Rawlinson ●78
2 (4) 1L-4 MUJASSAM 13 (B) (C2D) D O'Meara 7-9-7 Daniel Tudhope 75
3 (7) L27 MAMA AFRICA 14 (C&DC) T D Barron 5-9-7 Jane Elliott (3) 76
4 (11) 642 GLORY AWAITS 16 (B) (D3) D M Simcock 9-9-7 Dylan Hogan (5) 76
5 (2) 244 TAGUR 21 (P) (C&D2D2) K Ryan 5-9-4 T Greatrex (5) 75
6 (3) 232 MAJESTIC MOON 14 (P) (C&D) Miss J Feilden 9-9-2 Shelley Birkett 76
7 (1) 672 MR CARBONATOR 8 (C&D2) P Kirby 4-8-12 Jamie Gormley (3) 77
8 (8) L61 MUQARRED 14 (P) (C&D4) R Fell 7-8-10 Graham Lee 77
9 (9) 447 BOND ANGEL 9 (C&DC2) P Evans 4-8-10 Theodore Ladd (5) 76
10 (5) 404 LAQAB 7 D Shaw 6-8-10 Patrick Mathers 76
11 (6) 313 THUNDER BUDDY 18 (P) (C2BF) K Burke 4-8-9 Rhona Pindar (7) 76

Probable SP: 11-4 Casement, 6 Muqarred, 7 Tagur, 8 Thunder Buddy, Mr Carbonator, Glory Awaits, 10 Mama Africa, 12 Majestic Moon, 14 Mujassam, Laqab, 16 Bond Angel.

7.00 —HANDICAP (4) £10,150 added (£5,531) 4f 214yds (8)

1 (6) 418 MIDNIGHT MALIBU 73 (C&D3D7) T Easterby 6-9-7 Rachel Richardson 76
2 (4) 993- JABBAROCKIE 193 (C&DD3) E Alston 6-9-0 Jason Hart 77
3 (1) 468- ONLY SPOOFING 146 (D4) J O'Keeffe 5-9-0 Sean Davis (5) 76
4 (7) 122 WARRIOR'S VALLEY 13 (PT) (C&D3D2BF2) D C Griffiths 4-8-12 Phil Dennis 77
5 (3) 598 CLASSIC PURSUIT 16 (B) (C&DD7) S Keniry 8-8-11 Liam Keniry 75
6 (2) 853- SHOW PALACE 161 (D10) Jennie Candlish 6-8-11 Connor Beasley 77
7 (8) L31 MININGGOLD 13 (P) (C&D3D5) M Dods 6-8-9 Paula Muir (5) ●78
8 (5) 4L4 SAMOVAR 34 (B) (C&D2D) S Dixon 4-8-7 K O'Neill 74

Probable SP: 3 Mininggold, 4 Jabbarockie, 9-2 Warrior's Valley, 5 Show Palace, 7 Midnight Malibu, 8 Samovar.

Drop in Class: 6.00 Mundersfield is down 2 grades on last run (Class 4 to Class 6); 7.00 Midnight Malibu (2). **First run since wind surgery:** None today.

7.30 —HANDICAP (6) £6,569 added (£3,105) 1m 6f 21yds (14)

1 (2) L0L LUV U WHATEVER 8 (T) (C9) Mrs M Fife 9-9-8 Harrison Shaw (5) 77
2 (11) L66 HIGH COMMAND 18 (V) (C&DC) M Appleby 6-9-6 Theodore Ladd (5) ●78
3 (6) 104 SEASEARCH 49 (P) (C&DC) A Balding 4-9-5 Joshua Bryan (3) 77
4 (3) 235 HARBOUR QUAY 25 R Brisland 5-9-5 S Cronin (5) 76
5 (9) 4L6 RIPPLET 25 H Morrison 4-9-4 Charlie Bennett 64
6 (8) 7L9 FERN OWL 18 (V) (C2) J Butler 7-9-4 Liam Keniry 76
7 (4) 236 MAGIC SEA 19 Mrs S Dawson (IRE) 4-9-0 Dylan Hogan (5) 77
8 (1) 068- DEW POND J28 (B) (D2) T Easterby 7-8-13 Rachel Richardson 77
9 (5) 1L9 SWEETEST SMILE 21 E De Giles 4-8-5 J Elliott (3) 75
10 (12) 08-5 BERTIE MOON 104 (P) (CD) A L Forbes 9-8-5 Rhiain Ingram (5) 76
11 (14) 5-55 GREENVIEW PARADISE 21 J Scott 5-8-3 Kieran O'Neill 76
12 (7) 08L- MELANNA 316 Mrs Stella Barclay 8-8-3 Cam Hardie 60
13 (10) 9L/0- LOOSE CHIPPINGS 242 (H) I Furtado 5-8-3 Gabriele Malune (3) —
14 (13) 0/6-6 UNONOTHINJONSNOW 73 (E) Frank Bishop 5-8-3 Faye McManoman (5) —

Probable SP: 4 Magic Sea, 5 Harbour Quay, 11-2 Seasearch, 7 Ripplet, 8 Fern Owl, High Command, 10 Greenview Paradise, 12 Luv U Whatever, Dew Pond.

8.00 —NOVICE STAKES (5) £5,800 added (£3,752) 6f 16yds (7)

1 (4) 5 TOMMYCOLE 26 O Williams 4-9-9 T Ladd (5) —
2 (7) 1 ASTRO JAKK 18 (C&D) K Burke 3-9-5 P J McDonald 70
3 (1) 1 INSPIRED THOUGHT 14 (C&D) A Watson 3-8-12 Daniel Tudhope 75
4 (3) 375- SENSE OF BELONGING 208 K Ryan 3-8-12 Kevin Stott 76
5 (6) 6 LUNA PRINCESS 8 M Appleby 3-8-7 Jane Elliott (3) —
6 (2) 2- PARION 305 R Fahey 3-8-7 Sean Davis (5) ●78
7 (5) 0- SAPPHIRE JUBILEE 267 O Pears 3-8-7 Jamie Gormley (3) —

Probable SP: 5-4 Inspired Thought, 9-4 Astro Jakk, 9-2 Sense of Belonging, 5 Parion.

8.30 —HANDICAP (6) (3-Y-O) £6,569 added (£3,105) 6f 16yds (12)

1 (5) 329 MAISIE MOO 25 S L Keightley 9-9 Tony Hamilton 76
2 (7) 030- SCARLET SKIS 222 (P) Stef Keniry 9-7 Liam Keniry 75
3 (12) 364- SUPERSTITION 252 Eve J-Houghton 9-6 G Dobie (7) 72
4 (11) 569 TERMONATOR 23 G Tuer 9-5 Sam James 67
5 (8) 6L7 SHARRABANG 23 Mrs Stella Barclay 9-4 Cam Hardie 65
6 (1) 8L3 MISS ENIGMA 14 (E) R Hughes 9-3 Finley Marsh (3) 72
7 (4) 753 DECONSO 18 (T) (D2) C Kellett 9-2 Hollie Doyle 76
8 (9) 06-8 SLAINTE 18 Mrs S Dawson (IRE) 9-1 Dylan Hogan (5) 66
9 (3) 591 GUNNABEDUN 13 (B) (C) I Jardine 9-1 J Gormley (3) ●78
10 (6) 3-97 MILLDEAN PANTHER 20 Suzi Best 9-0 P J McDonald 71
11 (10) 812 CHAMPAGNE MONDAYS 18 (P) (C&DD) S Dixon 8-13 Nicola Currie 77
12 (2) 0-46 ATWAAR 55 C Smith 8-12 Faye McManoman (5) 71

Probable SP: 3 Gunnabedun, 11-2 Champagne Mondays, 6 Slainte, 7 Deconso, 8 Maisie Moo, 10 Miss Enigma, Superstition, 12 Termonator, 14 Milldean Panther.

TRACK FACTS: L-H Fibresand course. GOING: Standard. **STALLS:** 5f centre; remainder inside. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** Low 6f & 7f. **Top jockey:** A Rawlinson. **Top trainer:** M Appleby. **Headgear first time:** 6.00 Intermodal, Place Des Vosges, 7.30 Fern Owl, High Command, 8.30 Scarlet Skis. **Longest travellers:** Magic Sea (7.30) & Slainte (8.30) Ireland; Greenview Paradise (7.30) 243 miles.

NEWMARKET RTV ITV4 1.50, 2.25, 3.0, 3.35

ROBIN GOODFELLOW	GIMCRACK
1.50 Breath Of Air	1.50 Breath Of Air
2.25 Uae Jewel	2.25 Uae Jewel
3.00 Brando	3.00 Equilateral (nb)
3.35 Royal Marine	3.35 ROYAL MARINE (nap)
4.10 Handmaiden	4.10 Clerisy
4.45 Cape Cavalli	4.45 El Misk
5.20 Over The Guns	5.20 Brian Epstein

NEWMARKET – 3.00 Dreamfield (nb); 3.35 ZAKOUSKI (nap).

1.50 —BET365 HANDICAP (2) (3-Y-O) £25,000 added (£16,172) 6f (11) ITV4 Formcast

1 (7) 221232- MOYASSAR 168 (DBF) R Hannon 9-7 Jim Crowley 74
2 (5) 624135- JACK'S POINT 155 W Muir 9-6 Martin Dwyer 73
3 (1) 813- BREATH OF AIR 172 (D) (S) C Hills 9-2 Ryan Moore 76
4 (2) 03475-2 CHAPELLI 8 (G) M Johnston 9-2 James Doyle ●78
5 (8) 145-43L DON ARMADO 46 (T) (D2) (G) S C Williams 9-1 Richard Kingscote 73
6 (10) 2114L-4 OBERYN MARTELL 55 (D) (G) Eve J-Houghton 9-1 Charles Bishop 73
7 (3) 1126- YOUSINI 217 (G) K Ryan 9-0 Tom Eaves 74
8 (9) 1219- NAUGHTY RASCAL 172 (D2) R Hannon 9-0 Tom Marquand 72
9 (11) 622240- ALFIE SOLOMONS 193 Richard Spencer 8-13 Tom Queally 74
10 (6) 12-1 TOP BREEZE 23 (D) R Hughes 8-9 Shane Kelly 74
11 (4) 3185- SHEILA'S SHOWCASE 191 D Coakley 8-4 David Egan 74

Probable SP: 11-4 Breath Of Air, 4 Chapelli, 5 Moyassar, 7 Top Breeze, 10 Yousini, 12 Oberyn Martell, 14 Don Armado, Alfie Solomons, Naughty Rascal.
FAVOURITES: 1 0 1 1 2 2 2 1 1 0 (W 8-11).
2018: Maybride 3 8 10 (O Murphy) 6-1 R Fahey drawn (2) 9 ran.

Goodfellow's analysis **Chapelli**, who has some solid 2yo form, was beaten 1/2l by Ventura Ocean at Pontefract (6f) on his comeback run and that should have put an edge on him. **BREATH OF AIR** beat subsequent Greenham Stakes winner Mohaather at Newbury last year before being beaten by San Donato in a Listed race at Doncaster. He still has the look of a horse with plenty of improvement in him.

2.25 —BET365 WOOD DITTON MAIDEN STAKES (PLUS 10) (3) (3-Y-O) £15,000 added (£9,704) 1m (12) ITV4

1 (2) AL HADEER W Haggas 9-5 Jim Crowley
2 (4) DAMLAJ Owen Burrows 9-5 Dane O'Neill
3 (5) DESERT ICON W Haggas 9-5 James Doyle
4 (7) GEOMATRICIAN A Balding 9-5 David Probert
5 (3) JUNOOH Sir M Stoute 9-5 Ryan Moore
6 (1) KUNG FU S Crisford 9-5 Silvestre De Sousa
7 (9) MUTARAFFA (H) C Hills 9-5 Richard Kingscote
8 (6) SAMBA SARAVAH J Noseda 9-5 Jason Watson
9 (11) UAE JEWEL R Varian 9-5 Andrea Atzeni
10 (8) WILD ANIMAL S bin Suroor 9-5 C Soumillon
11 (12) CAESONIA C Hills 9-0 Jamie Spencer
12 (10) INSPIRATIONAL E Dunlop 9-0 Daniel Muscutt

Probable SP: 7-2 Al Hadeer, 4 Uae Jewel, 5 Wild Animal, 6 Junooh, Desert Icon, 14 Damlaj, 16 Samba Saravah. **FAVOURITES:** 1 1 3 – 0 1 3 1 3 0
2018: Sawwaah 3 9 5 (Dane O'Neill) 25-1 Owen Burrows drawn (19) 19 ran.
Some beautifully-bred debutants including 400,000gn War Front colt **Al Hadeer**, **Desert Icon**, a son of Sea The Stars, and **Wild Animal**, a colt by Kingman. But **UAE JEWEL**, a son of Dubawi, has an entry in the Dante Stakes which indicates a fair degree of promise at home.

3.00 —CONNAUGHT ACCESS FLOORING ABERNANT STAKES (GROUP 3) (1) £60,000 added (£34,026) 6f (8) ITV4

1 (6) 242824- BRANDO 179 (C&D2CD4) (GS) K Ryan 7-9-7 Tom Eaves ●78
2 (1) 11/126L- DREAMFIELD 235 (CD2BF) (GS) J Gosden 5-9-7 James Doyle 70
3 (3) 08144-3 EQUILATERAL 18 (DBF) (GS) C Hills 4-9-7 Ryan Moore 66
4 (4) 40155-6 GIFTED MASTER 39 (B) (C&D2C3D6) (GS) H Palmer 6-9-7 J Watson 74
5 (7) 62/98-1L KEYSTROKE 39 (T) (D) (S) S C Williams 7-9-7 Adam Kirby 68
6 (8) 113-55 SIR THOMAS GRESHAM 51 (T) (C&DDBF) (S) T Pinfield 4-9-7 M Dwyer 61
7 (2) 5116L7- TIME'S ARROW 213 (D2) (G) D O'Meara 5-9-7 Daniel Tudhope 65
8 (5) 212217- YAFTA 242 (C&DD3) (G) R Hannon 4-9-7 Jim Crowley 72

Probable SP: 6-4 Brando, 3 Dreamfield, 11-2 Yafta, 7 Gifted Master, Equilateral, 20 Time's Arrow. **FAVS:** 3 1 0 2 0 2 2 1 1 2 **AGES:** 7 5 7 4 4 5 4 4 5 6
2018: Brando 6 9 7 (T Eaves) 9-2 K Ryan drawn (6) 8 ran.
Lightly-raced **Dreamfield** is open to improvement and **Equilateral** would be a danger if his form could catch up with his reputation. However, **BRANDO** is mustard at Newmarket in April. He has won this race for the last two years plus a handicap at this meeting in 2016.

TRACK FACTS: PRINCIPAL MEETING. R-H course. GOING: Good to firm-good in places. **STALLS:** Far side course; far side. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** None. **Top jockey:** W Buick. **Top trainer:** J Gosden. **Placed in the race last year:** 3.00 Brando (1st).

3.35 —BET365 CRAVEN STAKES (GROUP 3) (1) (3-Y-O) £60,000 added (£34,026) 1m (10) ITV4

1 (7) 133- CONFIDING 228 (G) M Meade 9-0 Rob Hornby 69
2 (6) 1-1 GLOBAL SPECTRUM 74 Miss G Kelleway 9-0 Gerald Mosse 65
3 (3) 1-1 JACKSTAR 22 (C) (S) T Dascombe 9-0 Richard Kingscote 55
4 (5) 312- MOMKIN 236 (BF) (G) R Charlton 9-0 M Guyon 57
5 (9) 135- PRINCE EIJI 175 R Varian 9-0 NON RUNNER —
6 (4) 611-4 ROYAL MARINE 97 (DBF) (S) S bin Suroor 9-0 C Soumillon ●78
7 (2) 1-1 SET PIECE 99 (D2) H Palmer 9-0 Frankie Dettori 57
8 (1) 1- SKARDU 201 (C) (G) W Haggas 9-0 James Doyle 61
9 (8) 1251- WATAN 170 (S) R Hannon 9-0 Ryan Moore 71
10 (10) 1- ZAKOUSKI 147 C Appleby 9-0 William Buick 60

Probable SP: 13-8 Zakouski, 3 Royal Marine, 6 Skardu, 7 Set Piece, 14 Confiding, Watan, Global Spectrum, 20 Momkin. **FAVOURITES:** 1 1 1 3 1 1 0 2 0 2
2018: Masar 3 9 0 (W Buick) 7-2 C Appleby drawn (3) 6 ran.
There are some very promising colts here including Kempton maiden winner **Zakouski** and **Skardu**, who defied long odds to run out a taking winner here in September. Two wins on the AW have shown **Set Piece** to be above average while **Confiding** runs for the first time since his 3rd, beaten over 7l, to Too Darn Hot in the Solario Stakes at Sandown. But by far the best form is possessed by **ROYAL MARINE**. He won last season's Group 1 Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere at Longchamp and a defeat on Dirt on Dubai this year is forgivable.

4.10 —ROSSDALES MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES (PLUS 10) (4) (3-Y-O) £10,000 added (£6,469) 7f (12)

1 (1) ARISTOCRATIC LADY S Crisford 9-0 Andrea Atzeni —
2 (3) CALA D'OR Samuel Farrell 9-0 Eoin Walsh —
3 (10) 3- CLERISY 128 (BF) Sir M Stoute 9-0 Ryan Moore 65
4 (9) GENTLEWOMAN J Gosden 9-0 Robert Havlin —
5 (12) 2223- HANDMAIDEN 176 J Gosden 9-0 Frankie Dettori ●78
6 (6) OJOOBA Owen Burrows 9-0 Jim Crowley —
7 (8) 95- PEMPIE 147 A Balding 9-0 David Probert 53
8 (4) 68- QUEEN OF BURGUNDY 153 Mrs C Dunnett 9-0 Joey Haynes 57
9 (5) SEARCH FOR LIGHT S bin Suroor 9-0 C Soumillon —
10 (2) 0- SECRET TREATIES 176 Mrs C Dunnett 9-0 Hayley Turner —
11 (11) STARLIGHT M Bell 9-0 Jamie Spencer —
12 (7) 7- THAKAA 128 C Hills 9-0 Dane O'Neill 52

Probable SP: 9-4 Handmaiden, 11-4 Clerisy, 6 Search For Light, 7 Gentlewoman, 8 Ojooba. **FAVOURITES:** 2 1 0 0 0 2 3 1 1 1
2018: Sheikha Reika 3 9 0 (A Atzeni) 5-4 Fav R Varian drawn (13) 14 ran.

4.45 —BRITISH EBF BET365 'CONFINED' NOVICE STAKES (PLUS 10) (4) (3-Y-O) £10,000 added (£6,469) 1m 2f (9)

1 (5) 1- EIGHTSOME REEL 152 M Bell 9-9 Hayley Turner 70
2 (8) 1 EL MISK 16 (D) J Gosden 9-9 Frankie Dettori 76
3 (9) 1 ONE VISION 101 (D) C Appleby 9-9 James Doyle 76
4 (6) CAPE CAVALLI S Crisford 9-2 Silvestre De Sousa —
5 (2) 6- CATCH MY BREATH 168 J Ryan 9-2 B Doyle —
6 (3) 2 DOUGHAN ALB 15 R Hannon 9-2 Ryan Moore 75
7 (7) 2- JALMOUD 146 (BF) C Appleby 9-2 William Buick ●78
8 (4) MONS STAR S bin Suroor 9-2 C Soumillon —
9 (1) 4- VINDOLANDA 137 C Hills 8-11 Jamie Spencer 70

Probable SP: 3 El Misk, 7-2 Jalmoud, 4 One Vision, 6 Doughan Alb, 7 Mons Star, 10 Eightsome Reel, 12 Vindolanda. **FAVOURITES:** – – – – – – – – – 2
2018: Nordic Lights 3 9 9 (W Buick) 5-2 C Appleby drawn (7) 8 ran.

5.20 —COATES & SEELY BLANC DE BLANCS HANDICAP (4) (3-Y-O) £13,200 added (£7,763) 1m (15)

1 (12) L5-7058 BURJ 48 (H) (G) S bin Suroor 9-7 Adam Kirby 76
2 (15) 541- BRIAN EPSTEIN 198 (D) R Hannon 9-7 Tom Marquand 77
3 (7) 24341- GALLIC 180 (D) Ed Walker 9-6 Gerald Mosse 77
4 (14) 041- KARNAVAAL 181 Sir M Stoute 9-5 Jim Crowley ●78
5 (3) 521- KAMIKAZE LORD 212 J Noseda 9-5 Ryan Moore 77
6 (10) 82155-4 SELF ASSESSMENT 22 K Burke 9-3 Clifford Lee 76
7 (9) 32631-4 HARBOUR SPIRIT 21 R Hughes 9-3 Shane Kelly 76
8 (5) L937- THE CORPORAL 172 C Wall 9-1 George Wood 75
9 (4) 336- AWEEDRAM 161 A King 9-1 William Buick 74
10 (2) 03419- ARCHAEOLOGY 178 J O'Keeffe 9-0 Jamie Spencer 77
11 (11) 143- OVER THE GUNS 197 (V) K Burke 8-13 Silvestre De Sousa 76
12 (13) 044- GOD HAS GIVEN 191 I Williams 8-13 Richard Kingscote 70
13 (8) 782121- JEM SCUTTLE 144 (T) D Carroll 8-11 Tom Eaves 77
14 (1) 341-66 GOLD AT MIDNIGHT 14 (P) W Stone 8-10 David Probert 76
15 (6) 440- PURBECK HILLS 126 R Hannon 8-7 Harry Bentley 70

Probable SP: 7-2 Karnavaal, 11-2 Kamikaze Lord, 7 Gallic, 8 Brian Epstein, 10 Aweedram, Harbour Spirit, Burj. **FAVOURITES:** – – – – – – – – 1 1 (W 9-7).
2018: Breath Caught 3 9 6 (R L Moore) 3-1 Fav R Beckett drawn (3) 15 ran.

Headgear first time: 2.25 Mutaraffa, 3.00 Sir Thomas Gresham, 5.20 Over The Guns. **Longest traveller:** Chapelli (1.50) 200 miles. **Drop in Class:** 3.00 Brando is down 2 grades on last run (Group 1 to Group 3). **First run since wind surgery:** 1.50 Moyassar, Yousini.

CHELTENHAM RTV ITV4 2.40

ROBIN GOODFELLOW	GIMCRACK
2.05 Dashel Drasher	2.05 Dr Sanderson
2.40 Wenyerreadyfreddie	2.40 Rene's Girl
3.15 Gowiththeflow	3.15 Le Patriote
3.50 Fifty Shades	3.50 Tanarpino
4.25 Copper Gone West	4.25 Who's My Jockey
5.00 Dingo Dollar	5.00 Rocky's Treasure
5.30 Red Hot Chilly	5.30 Storm Rising

2.05 —CITIPOST NOVICES' HURDLE (2) £20,000 added (£12,380) 2m 4f 56yds (8)

101 334111 DASHEL DRASHER 26 (S) J Scott 6-11-8 M Griffiths 75
102 251201 ASK DILLON 1 (S) F O'Brien 6-11-4 Paddy Brennan 71
103 2-11181 COTSWOLD WAY 13 (D2) (G) P Hobbs 6-11-4 R Johnson ●78
104 1-1411 DR SANDERSON 16 (D) (S) P Nicholls 5-11-4 Harry Cobden 72
105 4-31134 MILL GREEN 39 N Henderson 7-11-4 Nico De Boinville 72
106 114220 THISTLE DO NICELY 33 (G) J Snowden 5-11-4 Gavin Sheehan 74
107 1 BUZZ DE TURCOING 136 (T) S Drinkwater 5-11-0 S Twiston-Davies —
108 692 COTSWOLD PRINCE 46 M Keighley 4-10-8 H Stock 59

Probable SP: 11-4 Cotswold Way, 4 Dashel Drasher, 9-2 Dr Sanderson, 11-2 Ask Dillon. **FAVOURITES:** 1 1 2 0 2 1 1 1 1 1 **AGES:** 6 6 6 6 5 5 6 7 7 5
2018: Diese Des Bieffes 5 11 4 (N Fehily) 5-2 Fav N Henderson 14 ran.

2.40 —CURE PARKINSON'S AND HAMBO FOUNDATION SILVER TROPHY CHASE (GRADE 2 LIMITED HANDICAP) (1) £60,000 added (£33,762) 2m 4f 127yds (9) ITV4

201 L2-1112 IMPERIAL PRESENCE 219 (BF) (S) P Hobbs 8-11-10 R Johnson 76
202 11-144P MISTER WHITAKER 36 (P) (C&DCBF) (S) M Channon 7-11-9 J Burke 76
203 P-2211L WENYERREADYFREDDIE 109 (BF) N Henderson 8-11-8 N De Boinville 76
204 1LL-240 TREE OF LIBERTY 33 (S) Kerry Lee 7-11-5 Richard Patrick (3) 77
205 214320 HIGHWAY ONE O ONE 36 (S) C Gordon 7-11-5 T Cannon 77
206 112-472 RENE'S GIRL 109 (T) (D) (S) D Skelton 9-11-4 Harry Skelton ●78
207 F-PL123 GOT AWAY 25 (PT) (S) O Sherwood 6-10-11 Leighton Aspell 77
208 31/71L-4 TIQUER 130 (S) A Jones 11-10-4 Tom O'Brien 76
209 44-5011 KINGS MONARCH 39 (D) (S) Kerry Lee 6-10-4 Jamie Moore 76

Probable SP: 4 Rene's Girl, 9-2 Mister Whitaker, 5 Kings Monarch, Wenyerreadyfreddie, 6 Highway One O One, 13-2 Imperial Presence.
FAVOURITES: 1 2 1 3 1 1 0 3 0 1 (W 10-9). **AGES:** 8 8 8 8 8 7 10 6 9 8
2018: Traffic Fluide 8 10 4 (Joshua Moore) 13-2 Fav G L Moore 16 ran.
Rene's Girl was beaten by **Mister Whitaker** at Carlisle in November and is not weighed to reverse the form. She does, however, come here a fresh horse who has had a light season from a stable in top form. **WENYERREADYFREDDIE** is also fresh, having not run since December and his defeat if Kildisart at Ascot in November now looks good.

3.15 —KINGSTON STUD HANDICAP HURDLE (2) £25,000 added (£15,475) 2m 4f 56yds (15)

301 53P214 UNISON 60 (S) J Scott 9-11-12 M Griffiths 77
302 P0-1432 JENKINS 23 (B) (S) N Henderson 7-11-11 David Bass ●78
303 9-22261 I'M A GAME CHANGER 109 (S) P Hobbs 7-11-9 R Johnson 75
304 741P-81 LE PATRIOTE 165 (P) (S) Dr R Newland 7-11-8 Sam Twiston-Davies 75
305 341100 FIDUX 57 (S) A King 6-11-8 Wayne Hutchinson 75
306 U12-B59 RATHER BE 53 (T) (D2) (S) N Henderson 8-11-6 Jeremiah McGrath —
307 F61/1-3 ESPOIR DE TEILLEE 24 (S) T R George 7-11-3 Jonathan Burke 75
308 11PL09 GOLDEN BIRTHDAY 137 (T) (S) H Fry 8-11-0 Sean Bowen 71
309 2218-L3 GOWITHTHEFLOW 85 (S) B Pauling 6-10-12 Nico De Boinville 77
310 00-42U9 NO HASSLE HOFF 74 (S) D Skelton 7-10-12 Daryl Jacob 76
311 213111 MAC TOTTIE 194 (HT) (D) (S) P Bowen 6-10-12 James Bowen 77
312 64252U HONEST VIC 32 (B) H Daly 6-10-6 Richard Patrick (3) 77
313 21435L LUNGARNO PALACE 74 (S) F O'Brien 8-10-6 Alain Cawley 76
314 755130 DUARIGLE 32 (D) (S) P Henderson 7-10-5 Paddy Brennan 77
315 1314 BACK ON THE LASH 21 M Keighley 5-10-2 Aidan Coleman 75

Probable SP: 11-2 Espoir De Teillee, 13-2 I'm A Game Changer, 7 No Hassle Hoff, 8 Honest Vic, 10 Rather Be, Gowiththeflow, Le Patriote, 12 Unison.
FAVOURITES: 1 0 0 1 0 2 2 0 0 0 (W 10-8). **AGES:** 10 6 7 7 6 6 7 5 7 8
2018: Champagne Express 8 9 13 (J Bowen) 16-1 N Henderson 22 ran.

3.50 —ARKELLS BREWERY NICHOLSON HOLMAN CHASE (NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP) (3) £18,196 (£10,832) 3m 1f 56yds (13)

401 212LL1 TANARPINO 18 (V) Jennie Candlish 8-11-8 Sean Quinlan 76
402 2-82381 BOB MAHLER 26 (P) (S) W Greatrex 7-11-7 R Johnson 76
403 FP2231 LITTLE BRUCE 45 (P) P Kirby 7-11-7 Thomas Dowson (3) 75
404 PP-30LL CLONDAW CIAN 36 (P) Mrs S Leech 9-11-5 Connor Brace (7) 76
405 42F522 LITHIC 43 (V) Jonjo O'Neill 8-11-5 Jonjo O'Neill Jr. (3) 75
406 712-L2P DARIUS DES BOIS 61 (BF2) N Henderson 6-11-3 Sean Bowen 77
407 L11716 SOLSTICE STAR 32 (PT) (D) M Keighley 9-11-2 S Twiston-Davies 76
408 6-13211 MINELLA FOR ME 32 (T) (S) T R George 9-11-2 Jonathan Burke 75
409 54-03L1 THE DELLERCHECKOUT 48 (BT) P Nicholls 6-11-0 Harry Cobden 77
410 61-71LP DUKE DEBARRY 45 (D) N Henderson 8-10-13 Nico De Boinville 77
411 6011FL LORD GETAWAY 34 (P) (BF) (S) H Evans 7-10-8 Leighton Aspell 76
412 526312 TIKK TOCK BOOM 7 (P) (BF) I Williams 7-10-3 Tom O'Brien 75
413 L52141 FIFTY SHADES (7lbex) 7 (P) Christian Williams 6-10-3 J Bowen ●78

Probable SP: 11-2 The Dellercheckout, 6 Minella For Me, 13-2 Bob Mahler, 8 Darius Des Bois, Tanarpino, Lithic, 10 Tikk Tock Boom, Lord Getaway.
FAVOURITES: – – – – – 0 1 2 3 0 (W 11-2). **AGES:** – – – – – 7 6 7 7 8
2018: Winter Lion 8 10 12 (P Brennan) 8-1 F O'Brien 11 ran.

First run since wind surgery: 2.40 Tiquer, 3.15 Gowiththeflow, No Hassle Hoff, 4.25 Thomas Campbell.

4.25 —SAFRAN LANDING SYSTEMS HANDICAP HURDLE (2) £20,000 added (£12,380) 2m 7f 213yds (16)

501 430031 WHO'S MY JOCKEY 46 (P) (D) P Hobbs 6-11-12 R Johnson 75
502 P-41248 THOMAS CAMPBELL 54 (P) (C&DC2BF) (S) N Henderson 7-11-12 Connor Brace (7) 77
503 3-11339 FIRST ASSIGNMENT 34 (C&DC) (S) I Williams 6-11-10 W Austin (7) 76
504 849P22 TOBEFAIR 34 (D4) (GS) Mrs D Hamer 9-11-10 Thomas Bellamy 77
505 1P-6110 AARON LAD 34 (C&D) (S) Dr R Newland 8-11-9 Charlie Hammond (3) 76
506 11/2-FU7 CHAMERON 106 (B) P Nicholls 6-11-8 Harry Cobden 74
507 02146L ROCKPOINT 33 (C&D) (S) C Tizzard 6-11-4 Tom Scudamore 76
508 PP1F-P2 SIR IVAN 24 (T) (S) H Fry 9-11-4 Sean Bowen 75
509 21-9331 OCEAN COVE 38 (P) (D) (S) F O'Brien 7-11-1 Paddy Brennan 76
510 464L23 DANS LE VENT 27 (B) (S) J Snowden 6-11-0 Gavin Sheehan 77
511 5L-P511 THE WELSH PADDIES 18 (P) (S) Kerry Lee 7-10-13 R Patrick (3) 76
512 1/03683 GOODBYE DANCER 38 (S) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-12 S Twiston-Davies 77
513 1/27121 COPPER GONE WEST 25 (S) T Vaughan 6-10-7 Alan Johns ●78
514 3-011L2 SKIPTHESCALES 29 (P) (D2) (S) P Kirby 7-10-5 Thomas Dowson (3) 75
515 72F821 REVE 54 (HT) M Keighley 5-10-5 Leighton Aspell 76
516 5-5L221 BROUGHTONS ADMIRAL F32 (B) (S) A Ralph 5-10-2 Lee Edwards 76

Probable SP: 7 Tobefair, 8 Who's My Jockey, First Assignment, 10 Sir Ivan, Copper Gone West, Ocean Cove, The Welsh Paddies, 12 Thomas Campbell.
FAVOURITES: 0 1 1 0 1 0 1 2 3 0 (W 10-11). **AGES:** 9 7 7 9 6 9 5 6 7 9
2018: Monbeg Theatre 9 9 13 (Page Fuller) 20-1 J Snowden 23 ran.

5.00 —WEATHERITE HANDICAP CHASE (2) £25,000 added (£15,475) 3m 2f (9)

601 112135 ROCKY'S TREASURE 46 (BF2) K Bailey 8-11-12 David Bass 77
602 12-4362 DINGO DOLLAR 46 (P) (S) A King 7-11-12 Wayne Hutchinson ●78
603 14PL1L COBRA DE MAI 25 (PT) (S) D Skelton 7-11-7 Harry Skelton 76
604 333192 ALLELU ALLELUIA 27 (B) Jonjo O'Neill 8-11-3 Jonjo O'Neill Jr. (3) 75
605 6-F5715 DAWSON CITY 32 (S) P Gundry 10-11-3 Thomas Bellamy 77
606 F-0P63P PERFECT CANDIDATE 34 (P) (C&D2C) (S) F O'Brien 12-11-2 P Brennan 77
607 6LPU20 HENRYVILLE 12 (C) P Bowen 11-10-13 Sean Bowen 76
608 61P-2PF SOMEWHERE TO BE 110 (P) (S) M Keighley 7-10-9 Leighton Aspell 77
609 4L2496 MARQUIS OF CARABAS 204 D Dennis 9-10-7 S Twiston-Davies 77

Probable SP: 2 Dingo Dollar, 5 Rocky's Treasure, 6 Allelu Alleluia, 7 Somewhere To Be, 8 Dawson City, 10 Henryville, Cobra De Mai.
FAVOURITES: 0 0 3 3 0 0 1 0 1 3 (W 11-1). **AGES:** 8 8 9 8 9 8 8 9 9 9
2018: Another Hero 9 10 7 (B J Geraghty) 8-1 Jonjo O'Neill 13 ran.

5.30 —CHELTENHAM PONY RACING AUTHORITY GRADUATES' HANDICAP HURDLE (CONDITIONALS AND AMATEURS) (3) £15,752 added (£9,285) 2m 179yds (14)

1 11160L MISTER FIZZ 12 (P) (S) Miss I Pickard 11-11-12 Lorcan Williams (5) 77
2 L21151 INNOCENT TOUCH 182 (D) H Daly 8-11-10 Miss A Stevens (7) 74
3 6-1314L BLACK KEY 28 D McCain 7-11-6 Mr Theo Gillard (7) 74
4 4158-P1 TURNING GOLD 97 (S) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4 Jordan Nailor (7) 75
5 511940 STORM RISING 33 (B) (CD) Dr R Newland 6-11-4 Charlie Hammond (3) 77
6 265722 MAGIC DANCER 60 (PT) (C&DC) (S) Kerry Lee 7-11-2 R Patrick (3) 76
7 38/7-80P PYROMANIAC 39 (BT) (D) A Ralph 9-11-1 Fergus Gregory (5) 77
8 43L209 CAPITAL FORCE 92 (S) M Keighley 8-10-13 H Stock (5) 72
9 521553 CORNBOROUGH 19 (D) (S) M Walford 8-10-11 Miss A McCain (5) 77
10 147151 LAUGHING LUIS 46 (GS) N Henderson 5-10-9 Jonjo O'Neill Jr. (3) ●78
11 532241 RED HOT CHILLY 152 (C) (G) F O'Brien 6-10-8 Connor Brace (7) 75
12 342221 LE LIGERIEN 19 (H) P Hobbs 6-10-7 Mr B R Jones (7) 75
13 89374L MINELLAFORLEISURE 95 (C&D) A Hales 11-10-3 Mr J Brace (7) 77
14 121112 UNO MAS 44 (P) (S) Christian Williams 5-10-1 Mr Jack Tudor (7) 76

Probable SP: 9-2 Magic Dancer, 5 Laughing Luis, 6 Turning Gold, 7 Le Ligerien. **FAVS:** – – – 0 0 0 2 3 2 3 (W 11-2). **AGES:** – – – 4 8 6 5 8 6 6
2018: Magic Dancer 6 10 6 (R Patrick) 11-2 Kerry Lee 15 ran.

TRACK FACTS: JACKPOT MEETING. L-H course. GOING: Good. **Top jockey:** R Johnson. **Top trainer:** N Henderson. **Placed in the race last year:** 3.50 Tanarpino (3rd); 5.30 Magic Dancer (1st); Mister Fizz (3rd). **Headgear first time:** 2.05 Buzz De Turcoing, 2.40 Mister Whitaker, 3.15 Honest Vic, Rather Be, 3.50 Fifty Shades, Lord Getaway, 4.25 Chameron, 5.30 Pyromaniac. **Longest travellers:** Little Bruce (3.50) & Skipthescales (4.25) 216 miles. **Drop in Class:** 2.05 Mill Green is down 2 grades on last run (Grade 3 to Class 2); Thistle Do Nicely (2); 3.15 Unison (3); Rather Be (2); Lungarno Palace (2); 3.50 Clondaw Cian (4); 4.25 First Assignment (2); Tobefair (2); Aaron Lad (2); Rockpoint (4); 5.00 Henryville (2); 5.30 Mister Fizz (3); Storm Rising (3); Magic Dancer (3); Pyromaniac (3).

abc

B — Beverley
C — Cheltenham
N — Newmarket
S — Southwell

Aaron Lad C 4.25
Acadian Angel B 6.10
Accessor B 5.10
Airplane B 5.10
Airshow B 4.35
Al Hadeer N 2.25
Alexandrakollontai B 6.10
Alfie Solomons N 1.50
Allelu Alleluia C 5.00
Archaeology N 5.20
Archive B 5.10
Aristocratic Lady N 4.10
Ask Dillon C 2.05
Astro Jakk S 8.00
Attainment B 4.00
Atwaar S 8.30
Aweedram N 5.20
Axe Axelrod B 4.00
Azor Ahai B 4.00
Back On The Lash C 3.15
Be Perfect B 5.10
Bertie Moon S 7.30
Bettys Hope B 2.15
Billy Dylan B 4.35
Birdie Bowers B 2.15
Birkenhead B 2.15
Bit Of A Quirke B 5.10
Black Key C 5.30
Blindingly B 5.40
Bob Mahler C 3.50
Bond Angel S 6.30
Boutonniere B 3.25
Brando N 3.00
Breath Of Air N 1.50
Brian Epstein N 5.20
Broughtons Admiral C 4.25
Bubbly B 6.10
Burj N 5.20
Buzz De Turcoing C 2.05
Caesonia N 2.25
Cala D'or N 4.10
Cape Cavalli N 4.45
Capital Force C 5.30
Casement S 6.30
Catch My Breath N 4.45
Chameron C 4.25
Champagne Mondays S 8.30
Chapelli N 1.50
Chocoholic B 2.15
City Tour B 4.00
Classic Pursuit S 7.00
Clerisy N 4.10
Clondaw Cian C 3.50
Cobra De Mai C 5.00
Cock Robin B 2.15
Comeatchoo B 2.50
Confiding N 3.35
Contingency Fee S 6.00
Copper Gone West C 4.25
Cornborough C 5.30
Cotswold Prince C 2.05
Cotswold Way C 2.05
Damlaj N 2.25
Dans Le Vent C 4.25
Darius Des Bois C 3.50
Dashel Drasher C 2.05
Dawson City C 5.00
Deconso S 8.30
Desert Icon N 2.25
Dew Pond S 7.30
Dingo Dollar C 5.00
Dominannie B 6.10
Don Armado N 1.50
Doughan Alb N 4.45
Dr Sanderson C 2.05
Dream On Dreamer B 6.10
Dreamfield N 3.00
Duarigle C 3.15
Duke Debarry C 3.50
Dutch Melody B 5.40
Eightsome Reel N 4.45
El Misk N 4.45
Elixsoft B 6.10
Emerald Fox B 5.40
Equilateral N 3.00
Espoir De Teillee C 3.15
Fern Owl S 7.30
Fidux C 3.15
Fifty Shades C 3.50
First Assignment C 4.25
Flower Power B 5.10
Four Mile Beach S 6.00
Fraser Island B 3.25
Gabrial The One B 3.25
Gainsay B 6.10
Gallic N 5.20
Gendarme B 5.10
Gentlewoman N 4.10
Geomatrician N 2.25
Gifted Master N 3.00
Gin Gembre B 2.50
Global Spectrum N 3.35
Glory Awaits S 6.30
God Has Given N 5.20
Going Native S 6.00
Gold At Midnight N 5.20
Golden Birthday C 3.15
Goodbye Dancer C 4.25
Got Away C 2.40
Gowiththeflow C 3.15
Greenview Paradise S 7.30
Gunnabedun S 8.30
Handmaiden N 4.10
Harbour Quay S 7.30
Harbour Spirit N 5.20
Heavenly Secret B 5.40
Hell Of A Joker B 2.15
Henryville C 5.00
High Command S 7.30
Highway One O One C 2.40
Hoffa B 3.25
Honest Vic C 3.15
Hovingham B 2.15
I'm A Game Changer C 3.15
Iconic Girl B 5.10
Ideal Candy B 6.10
Imperial Presence C 2.40
Innocent Touch C 5.30
Inspirational N 2.25
Inspired Thought S 8.00
Intermodal S 6.00
Jabbarockie S 7.00
Jack's Point N 1.50
Jackamundo B 4.00
Jackstar N 3.35
Jakodobro B 2.50
Jalmoud N 4.45
Jem Scuttle N 5.20
Jenkins C 3.15
Junooh N 2.25
Just Wait B 5.10
Kamikaze Lord N 5.20
Karnavaal N 5.20
Katinka B 5.40
Keystroke N 3.00
Kingdom Brunel B 5.40
Kings Monarch C 2.40
Kung Fu N 2.25
Kylie Rules B 6.10
Laqab S 6.30
Laughing Luis C 5.30
Le Ligerien C 5.30
Le Patriote C 3.15
Leave Em Alone B 2.15
Let's Be Happy S 6.00
Lightning Attack B 4.00
Lili Wen Fach B 2.50
Line Of Reason B 4.35
Lithic C 3.50
Little Bruce C 3.50
Loose Chippings S 7.30
Lord Getaway C 3.50
Luna Princess S 8.00
Lungarno Palace C 3.15
Luv U Whatever S 7.30
Mac Tottie C 3.15
Magic Dancer C 5.30
Magic Sea S 7.30
Maisie Moo S 8.30
Majestic Moon S 6.30
Make On Madam B 6.10
Mama Africa S 6.30
Marquis Of Carabas C 5.00
Melanna S 7.30
Midnight Malibu S 7.00
Mill Green C 2.05
Milldean Panther S 8.30
Minella For Me C 3.50
Minellaforleisure C 5.30
Mininggold S 7.00
Miss Enigma S 8.30
Mister Fizz C 5.30
Mister Whitaker C 2.40
Momkin N 3.35
Mons Star N 4.45
Motahassen S 6.00
Mount Ararat B 5.40
Moyassar N 1.50
Mr Carbonator S 6.30
Mujassam S 6.30
Mundersfield S 6.00
Muqarred S 6.30
Mutaraffa N 2.25
Naughty Rascal N 1.50
No Hassle Hoff C 3.15
Noddy Shuffle B 2.50
Nostalgic Air B 2.50
Oberyn Martell N 1.50
Ocean Cove C 4.25
Ojooba N 4.10
Oloroso B 4.00
One Vision N 4.45
Only Spoofing S 7.00
Over The Guns N 5.20
Pacino B 4.00
Panatos S 6.00
Parion S 8.00
Pearl Of Qatar B 4.00
Pempie N 4.10
Perfect Candidate C 5.00
Place Des Vosges S 6.00
Pontecarlo Boy B 5.40
Prince Eiji N 3.35
Puerto Sol B 2.50
Purbeck Hills N 5.20
Pyromaniac C 5.30
Queen Of Burgundy N 4.10
Quila Saeda S 6.00
Rapid Applause B 4.35
Rather Be C 3.15
Red Hot Chilly C 5.30
Red Touch S 6.00
Rene's Girl C 2.40
Reve C 4.25
Ripplet S 7.30
Rockpoint C 4.25
Rocky's Treasure C 5.00
Rodnee Tee B 2.50
Roue De Charrette B 6.10
Royal Marine N 3.35
Samba Saravah N 2.25
Samovar S 7.00
Sandra's Secret B 4.35
Sapphire Jubilee S 8.00
Sassy Lassy B 2.15
Scarlet Skis S 8.30
Schindlers Ark S 6.00
Search For Light N 4.10
Searching B 5.10
Seasearch S 7.30
Secret Treaties N 4.10
Self Assessment N 5.20
Sense of Belonging S 8.00
Set Piece N 3.35
Sharrabang S 8.30
Shazzab B 6.10
Sheila's Showcase N 1.50
Show Palace S 7.00
Simon's Smile B 3.25
Sir Ivan C 4.25
Sir Thomas Gresham N 3.00
Skardu N 3.35
Skipthescales C 4.25
Slainte S 8.30
Solstice Star C 3.50
Somewhere To Be C 5.00
Spiorad B 5.40
Starlight N 4.10
Storm Rising C 5.30
Stronsay B 4.00
Superstition S 8.30
Swansway B 5.10
Sweetest Smile S 7.30
Tagur S 6.30
Tanarpino C 3.50
Termonator S 8.30
Teruntum Star B 4.35
Thakaa N 4.10
The Corporal N 5.20
The Dellercheckout C 3.50
The Ginger Bullet B 2.15
The Welsh Paddies C 4.25
Thecornishbarron S 6.00
Thistle Do Nicely C 2.05
Thomas Campbell C 4.25
Thunder Buddy S 6.30
Tikk Tock Boom C 3.50
Time's Arrow N 3.00
Tiquer C 2.40
Tobefair C 4.25
Tommycole S 8.00
Tonquin Valley B 2.15
Top Breeze N 1.50
Tree Of Liberty C 2.40
Troubador B 2.50
Turning Gold C 5.30
Uae Jewel N 2.25
Unison C 3.15
Uno Mas C 5.30
Unonothinjonsnow S 7.30
Vindolanda N 4.45
Vodka Dawn B 2.50
Warrior's Valley S 7.00
Watan N 3.35
Watchable B 4.35
Wentworth Falls B 4.35
Wenyerreadyfreddie C 2.40
Whiskey And Water B 3.25
Who's My Jockey C 4.25
Wild Animal N 2.25
Yafta N 3.00
Yousini N 1.50
Zahraani S 6.00
Zakouski N 3.35
Zihaam B 5.10

Golden boy: Peaty eases to victory at Tollcross and (inset) shows off his medal

Peaty powers to gold in Glasgow

MARK WOODS
reports from Glasgow

ADAM PEATY signalled he is ready to re-write the history books again at July's world championships in South Korea after leaving his rivals in his wake on the opening night of the British Swimming Championships in Glasgow.

The 24-year-old Englishman — back in the pool where he slashed his own world record at last August's Europeans — clocked 57.87 seconds to win the 100metres breaststroke in the quickest time of 2019.

He was almost a second clear of British rival James Wilby, with Scotland's Ross Murdoch third.

Such is the quality of the trio that all three now sit inside the global top five. And Peaty, who will chase a double in today's 50metres, believes he is on the verge of another special summer.

'That first 50 was so easy,' he declared. 'I just couldn't get that emotion out of me on that last 50 to get where I needed to go.

'But I'm happy with where I'm at. It's going to be interesting in the 50. If I can match that speed, I don't know what will happen. I'm in a good place.'

Murdoch, who must now chase a ticket to the worlds via the 50m or 200m, acknowledged that he is in the presence of greatness when it comes to competing with Peaty.

'I always knew that it was going to take a personal best,' he admitted. 'That's the way I thought it was going to go.

'I didn't die. That's the fastest I've ever been at this stage of the season.'

Meanwhile, Hannah Miley came third behind English rivals Aimee Willmott and Abbie Wood in the 400m individual medley, with the 29-year-old Scot at ease with her decision to play down the value of this season after undergoing ankle surgery.

'It's nice coming into this meet with no pressure or expectations, other than the crowd wanting you to do well,' said Miley. 'For me, mentally, it's still really good.'

Freya Anderson fended off Holly Hibbott in the women's 200m freestyle, with Kat Greenslade the top Scot in fifth.

But 18-year-old Anderson from Merseyside, anointed as the Next Big Thing in British Swimming after emerging impressively from the junior ranks, claimed she had fallen short of her current potential.

'Maybe I'm better coming from behind,' she said. 'I'm happy with the win but the time has annoyed me a bit.'

Welshman Daniel Jervis, 22, eased to men's 400m freestyle victory, with Olympic medallist Stephen Milne over five seconds behind in fifth.

Sarah Vasey won the women's 50m breaststroke in 30.72 secs, with Tom Howdle landing the men's 50m backstroke title in 25.23.

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World Finals set to leave London's O2

TENNIS
By MIKE DICKSON

BRITAIN is set to lose one of its best-attended sports events, with November's ATP Tour World Finals expected to leave London.

Turin is the unlikely favourite to take over as host to the season's top eight male singles players and doubles teams, with an announcement expected this month.

The O2 Arena has been a hugely successful host for the event since 2009, with annual crowds of around 250,000 over the week putting it comfortably in the top ten of biggest aggregate crowds in this country.

The battle to host the season-end finale from 2021 onwards has come down to a contest between Turin and Tokyo, with the Italian bid in the driving seat despite fears over the state of the country's economy.

The alpine city's Pala Alpitour would be the new venue, with a capacity of around 15,000.

Meanwhile, at the Monte Carlo Masters, British No 2 Cameron Norrie made light of only arriving from Houston on Friday night to score a good win on his debut in this event, the Scot beating Frenchman Adrian Mannarino 6-4, 6-3 to reach the second round.

Novak Djokovic received a code violation for smashing his racket en route to a 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 win against German veteran Philipp Kohlschreiber as he sealed his spot in the last 16.

BEVERLEY RTV

2.15 —FIND PROMO CODES AT ACEODDS.COM EBF NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (DIV 1) (5) (2-Y-0) £6,400 added (£4,033) 5f (11)

1 (11) THE GINGER BULLET R Fahey 9-5 ... Paul Hanagan —
2 (10) COCK ROBIN K Ryan 9-4 ... Kevin Stott —
3 (3) BIRDIE BOWERS M Dods 9-3 ... Paul Mulrennan —
4 (8) CHOCOHOLIC B Smart 9-3 ... Graham Lee —
5 (4) TONQUIN VALLEY B Ellison 9-3 ... K Schofield (7) —
6 (9) 0 HELL OF A JOKER 18 (P) W G M Turner 9-2 ... R While (5) —
7 (2) 62 BIRKENHEAD 15 (BF) M Channon 9-1 ... Callum Shepherd ●78
8 (7) HOVINGHAM N Tinkler 9-1 ... Rowan Scott (3) —
9 (6) 4 LEAVE EM ALONE 9 P Evans 8-11 ... J Fahy 70
10 (5) SASSY LASSY David Loughnane 8-11 ... T Whelan —
11 (1) 2 BETTYS HOPE 14 B Millman 8-10 ... Joe Fanning 77

Probable SP: 2 Birkenhead, 7-2 Bettys Hope, 13-2 Leave Em Alone.
2018: Meeting abandoned due to Waterlogged course.

2.50 —FIND PROMO CODES AT ACEODDS.COM EBF NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (DIV 2) (5) (2-Y-0) £6,400 added (£4,033) 5f (10)

1 (2) 4 GIN GEMBRE 9 K Burke 9-5 ... Ben Curtis
2 (5) TROUBADOR M Dods 9-3 ... Paul Mulrennan
3 (10) COMEATCHOO T Easterby 9-2 ... David Allan
4 (4) NODDY SHUFFLE M W Easterby 9-2 ... Nathan Evans
5 (1) PUERTO SOL B Ellison 9-2 ... Ben Robinson (3)
6 (3) RODNEE TEE D O'Meara 9-2 ... C McGovern (3)
7 (9) JAKODOBRO B Smart 9-1 ... Graham Lee
8 (6) 6 LILI WEN FACH 9 P Evans 8-12 ... J Fahy
9 (8) NOSTALGIC AIR Mrs R Carr 8-11 ... James Sullivan
10 (7) VODKA DAWN Phillip Makin 8-11 ... Sam James

Probable SP: 9-4 Gin Gembre, 4 Lili Wen Fach, 11-2 Rodnee Tee.

3.25 —FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT BEVERLEY_RACES HANDICAP (4) (3-Y-0) £9,597 added (£5,419) 1m 1f 207yds (6)

1 (1) 553231- GABRIAL THE ONE 177 (S) R Fahey 9-7 ... Sean Davis (5) 77
2 (3) 2L553- FRASER ISLAND 146 M Johnston 9-5 ... Joe Fanning 77
3 (4) 8-31 BOUTONNIERE 35 (D) A Balding 9-5 ... Joshua Bryan (3) ●78
4 (6) 5426- WHISKEY AND WATER 222 (BF2) B Ellison 9-0 ... Ben Robinson (3) 76
5 (5) 64344- HOFFA 194 M Dods 8-12 ... Paul Mulrennan 77
6 (2) 3837- SIMON'S SMILE 145 K Burke 8-9 ... Ben Curtis 76

Probable SP: 9-4 Boutonniere, 5-2 Gabrial The One, 7-2 Whiskey And Water.

4.00 —ARGRAIN LTD REMEMBERING LAURA BARRY HANDICAP (4) (3-Y-0) £9,597 added (£5,419) 7f 96yds (10)

1 (5) 731-2 ATTAINMENT 7 (DBF) J Tate 9-7 ... David Allan ●78
2 (8) L28-1 OLOROSO 25 (D) A Balding 9-6 ... Joshua Bryan (3) 75
3 (2) 41006-2 PACINO 21 R Fahey 9-5 ... Tony Hamilton 73
4 (7) 2215- AXE AXELROD 217 M Dods 9-5 ... Paul Mulrennan 73
5 (3) 421L-7 AZOR AHAI 21 (G) M Channon 9-5 ... Callum Shepherd 72
6 (4) 254-1 CITY TOUR 15 (D) (G) M Johnston 9-4 ... Joe Fanning 74
7 (6) 32303-2 LIGHTNING ATTACK 15 (P) R Fahey 9-4 ... Paul Hanagan 75
8 (9) 512247- STRONSAY 180 (D) (S) B Smart 9-2 ... Graham Lee 73
9 (10) 8061-6 JACKAMUNDO 15 (D) (G) D Carroll 9-0 ... Kevin Stott 72
10 (1) 154L5- PEARL OF QATAR 208 (C) (G) B Ellison 8-10 ... Ben Robinson (3) 72

Probable SP: 7-2 Oloroso, 4 Attainment, 5 Lightning Attack, 6 Pacino, City Tour.

4.35 —HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY MY SPECIAL MUM KATHIE HANDICAP (3) £12,000 added (£7,470) 5f (8)

1 (2) 31112-4 SANDRA'S SECRET 2 (C&D2D2) (G) J L Eyre 6-9-10 ... NON RUNNER —
2 (5) 243243- WENTWORTH FALLS 214 (D) G Harker 7-9-7 ... David Allan 77
3 (8) 4L243L- LINE OF REASON 172 (C&DD5) (G) P Midgley 9-9-7 ... Joe Fanning 76
4 (4) 4023-LL TERUNTUM STAR 89 (D) (GS) K Ryan 7-9-6 ... Kevin Stott 76
5 (6) 26-2431 WATCHABLE 47 (P) (D) (G) D O'Meara 9-9-4 ... David Nolan ●78
6 (3) 691418- BILLY DYLAN 207 (D4) (S) D O'Meara 4-9-1 ... C McGovern (3) 76
7 (7) 153060- RAPID APPLAUSE 172 (C&D) (S) M W Easterby 7-9-1 ... N Evans 76
8 (1) 4126L2- AIRSHOW 205 (H) (S) M Appleby 4-8-10 ... Luke Morris 77

Probable SP: 9-4 Watchable, 11-4 Airshow, 3 Wentworth Falls, 10 Billy Dylan.

ROBIN GOODFELLOW	GIMCRACK
2.15 Birkenhead	2.15 The Ginger Bullet
2.50 Rodnee Tee	2.50 Gin Gembre
3.25 Gabrial The One	3.25 Boutonniere
4.00 Attainment	4.00 City Tour
4.35 Watchable	4.35 Airshow
5.10 Archive	5.10 Archive
5.40 Mount Ararat	5.40 Kingdom Brunel
6.10 Elixsoft	6.10 Bubbly

NORTHERNER – 2.50 GIN GEMBRE (nap); 5.10 Just Wait (nb).

5.10 —WESTWOOD HANDICAP (5) £7,840 added (£4,285) 1m 4f 23yds (12)

1 (5) 412-4 JUST WAIT 14 (D) (S) M Johnston 4-9-7 ... Joe Fanning 72
2 (3) 81/94L0- ACCESSOR 193 (S) M Dods 4-9-5 ... Paul Mulrennan 73
3 (11) 76244U- SEARCHING 231 (D) Mrs K Tutty 7-9-2 ... NON RUNNER —
4 (9) 11450-3 BIT OF A QUIRKE 8 (C5) (G) M Walford 6-9-1 ... Andrew Mullen 74
5 (1) 239-L41 ARCHIVE 8 (D) (G) B Ellison 9-9-1 ... Ben Robinson (3) ●78
6 (2) 6330-07 BE PERFECT 15 (P) (C&DD6) (G) Mrs R Carr 10-9-1 ... James Sullivan 74
7 (12) 433114- FLOWER POWER 169 (P) (C&DD2) (G) T Coyle 8-9-1 ... Dougie Costello 73
8 (4) 522568- ZIHAAM 193 (C&D) (G) Roger Fell 5-8-13 ... B Sanderson (5) 73
9 (8) L8-7527 GENDARME 25 A Dunn 4-8-12 ... Luke Morris 72
10 (6) 4-3L5 ICONIC GIRL 22 A Balding 4-8-12 ... Franny Norton 74
11 (10) 8L4104- AIRPLANE 168 (D2) T Easterby 4-8-11 ... Duran Fentiman 73
12 (7) 343426- SWANSWAY 176 (D) (G) M W Easterby 6-8-10 ... Nathan Evans 74

Probable SP: 9-2 Archive, 5 Bit Of A Quirke, 11-2 Just Wait, 7 Airplane.

5.40 —RACING TV NOVICE STAKES (5) £6,400 added (£4,140) 1m 100yds (9)

1 (5) 23 BLINDINGLY 47 B Haslam 4-9-5 ... Andrew Mullen 70
2 (2) HEAVENLY SECRET J46 (T) T Coyle 4-9-5 ... Dougie Costello —
3 (7) 322- KINGDOM BRUNEL 175 D O'Meara 4-9-5 ... David Nolan 72
4 (4) 334-44 MOUNT ARARAT 63 (P) K Burke 4-9-5 ... Ben Curtis ●78
5 (6) L7/80L-9 PONTECARLO BOY 6 R M Whitaker 5-9-5 ... Joe Fanning —
6 (8) 37- SPIORAD 196 D O'Meara 4-9-5 ... S Gray 70
7 (1) 0/670-7L DUTCH MELODY 8 Lucinda Egerton 5-9-0 ... Victor Santos (7) —
8 (3) EMERALD FOX R Brisland 4-9-0 ... Luke Morris —
9 (9) 552L- KATINKA 212 Archie Watson 4-9-0 ... Hollie Doyle 73

Probable SP: 9-4 Mount Ararat, 5-2 Kingdom Brunel, 4 Spiorad.

6.10 —RACING AGAIN NEXT THURSDAY FILLIES' HANDICAP (5) £7,840 added (£4,285) 1m 100yds (12)

1 (4) 513137- IDEAL CANDY 205 (H) (CD) (G) Mrs K Tutty 4-9-9 ... S Gray 76
2 (12) 3L28-13 GAINSAY 9 (D) (G) J Portman 4-9-7 ... Nicola Currie ●78
3 (2) 14L-407 ALEXANDRAKOLLONTAI 19 (B) (D4) (GS) A Whillans 9-9-7 ... Connor Murtagh (5) 75
4 (7) 432122 ELIXSOFT 12 (P) (D) Roger Fell 4-9-6 ... Ben Curtis —
5 (10) 2582-54 BUBBLY 95 M Loughnane 4-9-1 ... Luke Morris 75
6 (1) 59L003- SHAZZAB 191 (D) (S) R Fahey 4-9-0 ... Paul Hanagan 75
7 (3) 035066- KYLIE RULES 205 Mrs R Carr 4-8-12 ... James Sullivan 76
8 (9) 3L4908- MAKE ON MADAM 205 (C&DC3) (G) J L Eyre 7-8-12 ... Joe Fanning 75
9 (8) 38128-6 ACADIAN ANGEL 9 (GS) Steph Hollinshead 5-8-12 ... Royston Ffrench 76
10 (5) 267L/8L DREAM ON DREAMER 16 (PT) Lucinda Egerton 5-8-2 ... V Santos (7) —
11 (11) 0LL- ROUE DE CHARRETTE 151 (P) G Harker 4-8-2 ... Nathan Evans 61
12 (6) 902590- DOMINANNIE 165 R Barr 6-8-2 ... Andrew Mullen 72

Probable SP: 11-4 Elixsoft, 4 Gainsay, Shazzab, 9-2 Bubbly, 8 Ideal Candy.

TRACK FACTS: R-H course. GOING: Good to firm-good in places. **STALLS:** Inside. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** Low, particularly in sprints. **Top jockey:** J Fanning. **Top trainer:** R Fahey. **Headgear first time:** 2.15 Hell Of A Joker, 5.40 Heavenly Secret, Mount Ararat, 6.10 Elixsoft, Roue De Charrette. **Longest traveller:** Bettys Hope (2.15) 286 miles. **Drop in Class:** 2.15 Hell Of A Joker is down 2 grades on last run (Class 3 to Class 5); 3.25 Whiskey And Water (2); 4.00 Axe Axelrod (2). **First run since wind surgery:** 5.40 Kingdom Brunel.

RACING RESULTS

EXETER

2.05 — ASK DILLON (Paddy Brennan) **2-1JtFav** 1; **Boldmere 8-1** 2; **Blackjack Kentucky 3-1** 3. **9 ran.** (F O'Brien). 8l, 12l. **Tote:** 2.80; 1.10, 2.40, 1.20. Ex: 16.60. Tf: 47.20. CSF: 19.32.

2.40 — HERE'S HERBIE (James Best) **8-1** 1; **Nelson's Touch 16-1** 2; **Hattaab 2-1F** 3. **8 ran.** (Mrs S Gardner). 6l, nk. **Tote:** 7.30; 2.30, 4.80, 2.40. Ex: 116.10. Tc: 353.72. Tf: 472.00. CSF: 115.37.

3.15 — MELEKHOV (R Johnson) **5-6F** 1; **Quick Wave 5-1** 2; **Rococo River 7-2(2ndFav)** 3. **13 ran.** (P Hobbs). 1l, 14l. **Tote:** 1.60; 1.10, 1.40, 2.00. Ex: 5.40. Tf: 14.60. CSF: 5.59. NR: Corruption.

3.50 — ONE OF US (Sam Twiston-Davies) **9-2(2ndFav)** 1; **Sandhurst Lad 7-1** 2; **You Say What 4-1F** 3. **11 ran.** (N Williams). 2l, ¾. **Tote:** 5.60; 1.80, 2.50, 2.10. Ex: 45.20. Tc: 137.35. Tf: 205.10. CSF: 36.60.

4.25 — TUDORS TREASURE (Tom O'Brien) **11-4F** 1; **Kingston Mimosa 8-1** 2; **Rule The Ocean 11-2** 3. **10 ran.** (Robert Stephens). 1l, 11l. **Tote:** 3.70; 1.70, 2.30, 1.90. Ex: 21.40. Tc: 113.60. Tf: 102.90. CSF: 24.57.

5.00 — THEATRE TERRITORY (Mr Sam Waley-Cohen) **1-4F** 1; **Drumlynn 13-2(2ndFav)** 2; **Kit Barry 20-1** 3. **6 ran.** (W Greatrex). 3l, 15l. **Tote:** 1.20; 1.10, 1.90. Ex: 2.90. Tf: 10.70. CSF: 2.82.

5.35 — MERCHANT HOUSE (Miss Millie Wonnacott) **20-1** 1; **Full Of Roque 12-1** 2; **Grumpy Charley 10-3(2ndFav)** 3. **11 ran.** (L Jefford). 3l, 3¾. **Tote:** 27.10; 8.00, 4.30, 1.30. Ex: 396.00. Tf: 2897.40. CSF: 239.97.

Placepot £10.60. **Q'pot** £3.20.

NEWMARKET

1.15 — MAQSAD (Jim Crowley) **6-4F** 1; **Twist 'n' Shake 2-1(2ndFav)** 2; **Artistic Streak 14-1** 3. **10 ran.** (W Haggas). shd, 9l. **Tote:** 2.40; 1.20, 1.20, 2.60. Ex: 6.00. Tf: 37.10. CSF: 4.34.

1.50 — FLAVIUS TITUS (Andrea Atzeni) **8-1(Co2ndFav)** 1; **Summerghand 8-1(Co2ndFav)** 2; **Green Power 7-1F** 3. **15 ran.** (R Varian). nk, nk. **Tote:** 8.60; 2.50, 3.30, 2.50. Ex: 89.90. Tc: 489.63. Tf: 677.80. CSF: 67.28.

2.25 — SHINE SO BRIGHT (Silvestre De Sousa) **5-2(2ndFav)** 1; **Space Traveller 10-1** 2; **Azano 2-1F** 3. **7 ran.** (A Balding). 1¾, 3½. **Tote:** 3.30; 1.60, 4.40. Ex: 22.70. Tf: 83.40. CSF: 25.74.

3.00 — KICK ON (Oisin Murphy) **2-1(2ndFav)** 1; **Walkinthesand 14-1** 2; **Boerhan 13-2** 3. **6 ran.** (J Gosden). nk, 4½. **Tote:** 2.90; 2.30, 3.90. Ex: 25.00. Tf: 97.00. CSF: 27.29. NR: Spanish Mission.

3.35 — QABALA (David Egan) **10-3F** 1; **Mot Juste 7-1** 2; **Angel's Hideaway 9-2** 3. **11 ran.** (R Varian). 1¾, ¾. **Tote:** 4.30; 1.80, 2.20, 2.40. Ex: 26.50. Tf: 141.40. CSF: 25.78.

4.10 — CHASING DREAMS (William Buick) **4-9F** 1; **Good Vibes 12-1** 2; **Kemble 7-2(2ndFav)** 3. **5 ran.** (C Appleby). 5l, 2¾. **Tote:** 1.30; 1.10, 3.90. Ex: 6.30. Tf: 11.50. CSF: 7.10. NR: Aroha.

4.45 — LAVENDER'S BLUE (Robert Havlin) **3-1** 1; **Maamora 2-1F** 2; **Alandalos 11-4(2ndFav)** 3. **9 ran.** (Mrs A Perrett). 2½, 4½. **Tote:** 4.10; 1.30, 1.10, 2.00. Ex: 10.20. Tf: 28.10. CSF: 9.26. NR: Fast Strike.

5.20 — SOLID STONE (Ryan Moore) **9-4F** 1; **War Tiger 3-1(Jt2ndFav)** 2; **Never Do Nothing 7-2** 3. **5 ran.** (Sir M Stoute). ½, 2¾. **Tote:** 2.90; 1.60, 1.60. Ex: 9.00. Tf: 25.50. CSF: 9.38.

Jackpot £3,688.50.
Placepot £53.10. **Q'pot** £13.40.

WOLVERHAMPTON

5.45 — AMOR FATI (Nicola Currie) **11-4JtFav** 1; **Aqua Libre 15-2** 2; **Captain Marmalade 100-1** 3. **11 ran.** (P Evans). nk, 1l. **Tote:** 3.40; 1.80, 2.50, 12.80. Ex: 33.70. Tc: 1745.31. Tf: 3749.80. CSF: 25.74. NRs: Cape Agulhas, Ubla.

6.15 — MAGICAL MOLLY JOE (P J McDonald) **9-4F** 1; **Naralsaif 8-1** 2; **Clement 7-1** 3. **12 ran.** (T D Barron). nk, ½. **Tote:** 2.60; 1.10, 2.60, 2.70. Ex: 20.70. Tc: 117.16. Tf: 133.70. CSF: 21.21.

6.45 — INVITATIONAL (Jack Mitchell) **13-2** 1; **Astrologer 40-1** 2; **Vivionn 9-4(2ndFav)** 3. **11 ran.** (R Varian). 2¾, 1½. **Tote:** 7.60; 1.80, 10.80, 1.10. Ex: 300.30. Tf: 1098.30. CSF: 236.36. NR: Lady Madison.

7.15 — CORINTHIA KNIGHT (Hollie Doyle) **9-2(2ndFav)** 1; **Storm Over 14-1** 2; **Tropics 8-1** 3. **7 ran.** (Archie Watson). 1¼, shd. **Tote:** 5.20; 2.50, 6.30. Ex: 59.50. Tf: 254.40. CSF: 62.06.

7.45 — SEINESATIONAL (David Egan) **11-4(2ndFav)** 1; **Knight Commander 8-1** 2; **Alabaster 5-2F** 3. **7 ran.** (W Knight). nk, 2l. **Tote:** 4.50; 2.50, 3.00. Ex: 27.90. Tf: 80.60. CSF: 25.31.

8.15 — THA'IR (Danny Brock) **8-1** 1; **Splash Of Verve 15-2** 2; **First Call 3-1F** 3. **13 ran.** (P McBride). 1¼, nk. **Tote:** 10.10; 3.30, 3.00, 1.80. Ex: 68.80. Tc: 225.49. Tf: 273.30. CSF: 66.62.

Placepot £238.20. **Q'pot** £51.80.

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HOTSPOTS

WORK WHISPER
GIN GEMBRE
(Beverley, 2.50)

WEIGHTING GAME
BE PERFECT
(Beverley, 5.10)
Down 15lb from last winning mark.

BURNT FINGERS
Royal Marine
(Newmarket, 3.35)

CAPTAIN HEATH TRIO
AIRSHOW (nap)
(Beverley, 4.35)
ROYAL MARINE (nb)
(Newmarket, 3.35)
DINGO DOLLAR
(Cheltenham, 5.00)

FORMCAST SPECIAL BET
CASEMENT
(Southwell, 6.30)

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

by John McGarry

Power of positive thinking can help Jags beat the drop

Bring it on: McDonald believes the Jags can avoid relegation to League One

4
McDonald has scored four league goals since his arrival at Partick Thistle in January — against Alloa, Dundee United, Falkirk and Dunfermline

NO sense of foreboding. Not one shred of doubt. Only an unshakable belief that, in the final reckoning, they will have lived to tell the tale.

How the Partick Thistle fans who travelled to Dingwall on Saturday could have done with Scott McDonald's sense of calm and certainty.

For Gary Caldwell and his players, a goalless draw with champions-elect Ross County ought to have been grounds for modest celebration. A small step taken on their road to redemption.

Matters beyond their control, however, saw them tumble back down to the foot of the Championship table.

Despite only suffering one defeat in the last six league matches, with just four games remaining, Thistle now face the fight of their lives to ensure they do not suffer the indignity of a second successive relegation.

The pressure of ensuring that does not come to pass might well feel suffocating for some. Exuding Zen-like inner-calm at 35 years old, though, all the Australian sees is opportunity.

Every game I'm going into is without any pressure... it's another game

'I've jumped into a scenario that I haven't been part of,' reflected McDonald on joining the Maryhill club at the turn of the year. 'So, mentally, you are detached from what's happened before.

'It may be a selfish perspective but my mindset is: "That was before me", so I don't need to necessarily get caught up in all that. I'm here to help. I just look to the future.

'It's more individually what I can achieve and how I can help the team going forward.

'Every game I'm going into is without any pressure. I'm not looking at every game thinking it's a bottom-of-the-table clash.

'It's just another game and I've played almost 500 of them. That's my mentality. The mindset is the biggest tool in football and in life.

'At times, it's been a hindrance to me but at the moment I've got a really positive one.'

By his own admission, in his formative years, McDonald was not always such a ray of sunshine.

With the passing of time, though, comes wisdom. And, right now, he appreciates that Thistle need all the positivity they can muster.

'I've tried to radiate that to the other players,' he added. 'I think the best way of doing that is through your performances and helping them on the pitch and gaining their trust.

'You want them to look at you as a positive — the fact you are in the team.

'There's no question I've done that over the years — looked at players and thought: "He's going to give me what I want".

'You think of that, twist it round and want to be that positive influence for everyone else.'

You dread to think how serious Partick's plight would be without McDonald's input.

Since agreeing to come out of retirement for his former Celtic team-mate at the turn of the year, his four league goals have helped keep his side afloat. He harbours no misgivings that his decision was not arrived at sooner.

'I don't regret my time out as it's had a positive effect in terms of my outlook on the game and how much I've enjoyed it since I've come back,' he explained as he picked up the McCrea Financial Services Player of the Month award (above). 'I was at the end of my tether after last year — not that I had a bad year — and didn't enjoy moments of it.

'It was just the travelling, the stress and strain on my family and just dealing with that manager (Csaba Laszlo).

'It scunnered me to the point of: "I don't want another year like this". I'm not stuck in my ways but I didn't like the way it was going.

'From that point of view, I wasn't prepared to put myself in that situation again. I just wanted to get on with my life and be happy.

'I'd gone through a period where I just wasn't happy playing the game. I was getting frustrated. I'm an ambitious type of character.'

Fortuitously for Caldwell, McDonald's six months out of the game were well lived.

Not only did he avoid the expanding waistline that befalls so many recently retired professionals, a slavish devotion to personal fitness ensured his return to the frontline was virtually seamless.

'In the back of your head, you are thinking: "I'm finished, so I don't want to put weight on",' he explained. 'So I probably exceeded my normal work rate.

'As well as playing five-a-sides with friends a couple of times a week, I did lots of running.

'After a kick-about I'd go straight to the gym or run around a park.

'I think as I got older I got very serious about being in good nick and keeping the weight off.

'Whatever I do, I'm always serious about it. I'm very OCD-like. I like everything a certain way and my body a certain way. That will never change.

'When I was younger, I probably carried a bit more than I should have. When I got down to the level I got to, I enjoyed it.

'Like everyone, you like a certain way you look and you want to keep that.'

With the lower echelons of the table presently tighter than piano wire, it's hard to overstate the importance of Thistle's match with surprise-package Alloa on Saturday.

A double-header with Ayr United follows before what might be a straight shoot-out for survival with free-falling Queen of the South at Palmerston on May 4.

'The biggest reward will be making sure we are safe,' added McDonald. 'I've come in to do a job and, from a personal point of view, I couldn't have hoped for more. As long as we continue doing what we have been since the turn of the year we should get to where we want to be.'

● *McCrea Financial Services, an Independent Financial Adviser based in central Glasgow, and long-term sponsor of Partick Thistle, provide a wide range of services for getting the most out of your finances. To find out more visit mccreafs.co.uk*

MCCREA FINANCIAL SERVICES

MORTON 2
Lyon 27
Kiltie 42 pen

INVERNESS CT 2
McDonald 18
McCauley 88

JOE GARDNER
at Cappielow

Caley equaliser keeps strain on nervous Morton

MORTON'S hopes of staying up were dealt a huge blow last night after they coughed up an equaliser in the dying moments against Inverness Caley Thistle at a stunned Cappielow.

The home side had looked on course for a vital three points, which would have provided them with a little breathing room at the bottom of the Championship.

Instead, they are just three points ahead of Partick Thistle, who have a game in hand, in the relegation spot and two above Queen of the South and Falkirk.

Anthony McDonald had put the visitors ahead with a stunning solo goal after 18 minutes but Jonatan Johansson's side showed their fighting spirit, with Reece Lyon equalising nine minutes later before Greg Kiltie fired home from the penalty spot three minutes before half-time.

Yet they failed to see the game out as substitute Darren McCauley hit an equaliser in the 88th minute.

Afterwards, Johansson admitted it had been a stressful end to the match and lamented his side's failure to kill the game off, saying: 'I am going to have grey hair at this rate. But I was pleased with the players. It was a good performance and every one of them worked so hard, so I cannot fault them.

'We should have killed the game off because we had so many chances. We tried to pick the perfect pass instead and to lose a goal that late is disappointing.

'But I have said to the players that they cannot feel sorry for themselves. There are only three games and the next one is massive.

'There is no blame, there is no feeling sorry for yourself, it is about getting into a positive frame of mind and with a performance like that I am fairly confident.'

Rival boss John Robertson added: 'It was a cat-and-mouse game with the way they wanted to play and the way we wanted to play.

'We had to abandon our principles in the last five minutes. We went direct, we got our rewards and, in the end, both teams deserved to get something out the game tonight.'

After goalkeeper Mark Ridgers dislocated a finger at Hampden on Saturday, Robertson was forced to call upon Cameron MacKay for just his fourth appearance of the season, but the 22-year-old proved his worth after ten minutes when he prevented Gary Oliver's curling effort from finding the far corner.

Despite Morton's early efforts, it was the Highlanders who took the lead. McDonald went on a run from the right wing, slicing through the Morton defence, before firing home his first competitive senior goal.

Nine minutes later, there was nothing MacKay could do to prevent Lyon from levelling the scores. Reghan Tumilty's cross was poorly cleared and the youngster brought the ball down before striking his half-volley into the bottom corner.

Johansson's side remained on top after the equaliser and, in the 42nd minute, they took the lead from the penalty spot. Gregor Buchanan was wrestled to the ground by Brad McKay during a set-piece and referee David Lowe didn't hesitate to award the spot-kick. Kiltie sent MacKay the wrong way to put the hosts ahead.

Robertson's side looked to turn the game around after the break and earn the three points which would seal them a play-off place. Their best chance came in the 64th minute when Joe Chalmers picked out Jordan White from a corner, but the striker nodded inches over the bar.

It seemed as though the equaliser was never going to come, but with two minutes remaining Liam Polworth fired a delivery across goal and McCauley struck the ball past Robby McCrorie to break Morton hearts and move Inverness nine points clear of Dunfermline in the battle for the final play-off spot with three games remaining.

MORTON (3-5-2): McCrorie; Kilday, Buchanan, McAlister, Tumilty, Lyon, Tidser, Telfer, Iredale; Oliver (Millar 73), Kiltie (Dallas 86). **Subs not used:** Gaston, Dykes, O'Connell, McKeown, McGrattan.
Booked: Tumilty, Lyon.
INVERNESS CT (4-2-3-1): MacKay; Rooney, McKay, McCart, McHattie; Trafford (McCauley 78), Chalmers; McDonald (Walsh 60), Polworth, Doran (Austin 78); White. **Subs not used:** Fon Williams, MacGregor, Brown, Harper.
Booked: McKay, McHattie.
Referee: David Lowe.
Attendance: 1,315.

Level best: McCauley celebrates to the dismay of Morton

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Ross County	33	19	8	6	54	30	24	65
Dundee Utd	33	17	8	8	45	39	6	59
Ayr Utd	32	14	8	10	46	32	14	50
Inverness	33	12	14	7	45	37	8	50
Dunfermline	33	11	8	14	32	36	-4	41
Alloa	33	10	8	15	36	48	-12	38
Morton	33	8	13	12	32	45	-13	37
QoS	33	8	11	14	39	40	-1	35
Falkirk	33	8	11	14	34	43	-9	35
Partick Th	32	9	7	16	36	49	-13	34

Warnock now eyes a miracle for Cardiff

BRIGHTON 0
CARDIFF 2

NEIL WARNOCK had called for a Cardiff comeback in the style of Tiger Woods. What he got instead was a great escape.
And not just because of the goals from Nathaniel Mendez-Laing and Sean Morrison which breathed fresh life into their bid to escape relegation.
What happened after ten minutes, when Brighton should have had a penalty at 0-0, may prove key. Bruno Manga had his hands all over Lewis Dunk at a set-piece. When Dunk hit the deck, it was with no little force. It was a pull and a pretty hefty one.
So was the appeal, but unlike Chelsea at home and Burnley away, this one went for Cardiff.
It was the platform from which Mendez-Laing scored a beauty for 1-0 before Morrison got the goal for security.
How unlikely that this team with six defeats in their previous seven games should score twice. They previously had scored only nine away goals all season. Fine timing to get it right against their only real rival at this point.
'So many pundits said it would be our last game in the Premier League but we're alive and kicking,' said Warnock.
'I've never lost belief that we'd win games. We're not relegated yet.'
It was Joe Ralls who ended a Brighton attack with a firm challenge 30 yards from his own goal and then sprung the counter in which Junior Hoilett surged down the left and played in-field to Mendez-Laing. After a couple of touches, he curled home from 25 yards.
The home situation immediately became bleaker in the second half following Dunk's weak marking at a Victor Camarasa free-kick. Morrison moved on to Dunk's blind side and headed past Mat Ryan. Chris Hughton's Brighton are in deep trouble and the manager said after this painful defeat: 'As a team, there is only one way to ensure we stay in this division: that's by fighting as hard as we can. 'I do believe we will stay up because I have to. It's in our own hands. It's been a really bad week.'

RIATH AL-SAMARRAI

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ LAST NIGHT

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Quarter-finals, second leg

BARCELONA ..... (2) 3 **MAN UTD**.....(0) 0
Messi 16, 20, Coutinho 61 — *96,708*
(Barcelona win 4-0 on aggregate)

JUVENTUS..... (1) 1 **AJAX**.....(1) 2
Ronaldo 28 — van de Beek 34, De Ligt 67 — *41,445*
(Ajax win 3-2 on aggregate)

LADBROKES CHAMPIONSHIP

MORTON..... (2) 2 **INVERNESS CT**....(1) 2
Lyon 27, Kiltie 42 (pen) — McDonald 18, McCauley 88 — *1,315*

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

BRIGHTON..... (0) 0 **CARDIFF CITY**.....(1) 2
Mendez-Laing 22, Morrison 50 — *30,226*

	P	W	D	L	G	D	Pts
Liverpool	34	26	7	1	57	85	
Man City	33	27	2	4	64	83	
Tottenham	33	22	1	10	30	77	
Arsenal	33	20	6	7	26	66	
Chelsea	34	20	6	8	21	66	
Man Utd	33	19	7	7	19	64	
Leicester	34	14	5	15	1	47	
Wolves	33	13	8	12	-1	47	
Everton	34	13	7	14	2	46	
Watford	33	13	7	13	-1	46	
West Ham	34	12	6	16	-10	42	
Bournemth	34	12	5	17	-12	41	
C Palace	34	11	6	17	-6	39	
Burnley	34	11	6	17	-18	39	
Newcastle	34	10	8	16	-11	38	
S'hampton	33	9	9	15	-15	36	
Brighton	33	9	6	18	-21	33	
Cardiff City	34	9	4	21	-33	31	
(R) Fulham	34	5	5	24	-44	20	
(R) Hud'field	34	3	5	26	-48	14	

■ BASKETBALL

RESULTS; NBA Eastern Conference Play-Offs first round: Philadelphia 76ers 145 Brooklyn Nets 123 (*Best-of-seven series tied 1-1*).

NBA Western Conference Play-Offs first round: Golden State Warriors 131 LA Clippers 135 (*Best-of-seven series tied 1-1*).

■ CYCLING

RESULTS; Presidential Tour of Turkey, Turkey, Stage One (Istanbul-Tekirdag, 156.7km): **1** S Bennett (Rlre) Bora-Hansgrohe at 3hrs 32mins 34secs, **2** F Jakobsen (Ned) Deceuninck-QuickStep, **3** C Ewan (Aus) Lotto Soudal, **4** E-M Grosu (Rom) Delko Marseille Provence KTM, **5** S Consonni (Ita) UAE Team Emirates, **6** L Pacioni (Ita) Neri Sottoli-Selle Italia-KTM, **7** I Cima (Ita) Nippo-Vini Fantini-Faizane, **8** C Noppe (Bel) Sport Vlaanderen-Baloise, **9** G Lonardi (Ita) Nippo-Vini Fantini-Faizane, **10** A Hodeg (Col) Deceuninck-QuickStep all at same time. **Others: 22** M Cavendish (GB) Dimension Data, **33** M Gibson (GB) Burgos-BH, **72** S Davies (GB) Dimension Data all at same time.

■ ICE HOCKEY

RESULTS; NHL Eastern Conference Play-Off first round: Carolina Hurricanes 5 Washington Capitals 0 (*Washington Capitals lead best-of-seven series 2-1*), Toronto Maple Leafs 3 Boston Bruins 2 (*Toronto Maple Leafs lead best-of-seven series 2-1*).

NHL Western Conference Play-Off first round: Colorado Avalanche 6 Calgary Flames 2 (*Colorado Avalanche lead best-of-seven series 2-1*), Dallas Stars 2 Nashville Predators 3 (*Nashville Predators lead 2-1*).

■ RUGBY UNION

FIXTURE; Today, Tennent's Scottish West Regional Division One: Dalziel v Strathendrick (7.30pm).

■ SNOOKER

POSITIONS; Betfred World Championship, final qualifying round (best of 19): R Milkins (Eng) leads A McGill (Sco) 7-2, Z Yuelong (Chn) leads E Sharav (Sco) 5-4, G Dott (Sco) leads K Maflin (Nor) 7-2, S Donaldson (Sco) leads L Ning (Chn) 7-2, Z Xintong (Chn) leads M Selt (Eng) 7-2, T Pengfei (Chn) leads M Stevens (Wal) 7-2, J Perry (Eng) leads M O'Donnell (Eng) 6-3, L Hang (Chn) leads B Woollaston (Eng) 5-4, L Honghao (Chn) leads T Ford (Eng) 5-4, A Carter (Eng) leads J Astley (Eng) 6-3, T Un-Nooh (Tha) leads J O'Connor (Eng) 5-4, M Gould (Eng) leads D Wells (Wal) 5-4, G Wilson (Eng) leads L Wenbo (Chn) 5-4, L Haotian (Chn) leads M Davis (Eng) 5-4, M Georgiou (Cyp) leads Y Bingtao (Chn) 5-4, J Cahill (Eng) leads M Judge (Rlre) 6-3.

■ TENNIS

RESULTS; ATP Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters, Monte Carlo, Monaco, first round (prefix number denotes seeding): **C Norrie** (GB) bt A Mannarino (Fra) 6-4, 6-4; **F Auger-Aliassime** (Can) bt J Londero (Arg) 7-5, 7-6 (7-5); **T Fritz** (USA) bt J-W Tsonga (Fra) 6-4, 2-0 ret; **P-H Herbert** (Fra) bt F Verdasco (Spa) 6-4, 6-4; **G Simon** (Fra) bt A Popyrin (Aus) 7-5, 6-1. **Second round: G Pella** (Arg) bt (7) M Cilic (Cro) 6-3, 5-7, 6-1; **(1) N Djokovic** (Srb) bt P Kohlschreiber (Ger) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4; **(9) B Coric** (Cro) bt J Munar (Spa) 6-7 (3-7), 7-6 (9-7), 6-4; **(11) M Cecchinato** (Ita) bt S Wawrinka (Swi) 0-6, 7-5, 6-3; **L Sonego** (Arg) bt (8) K Khachanov (Rus) 7-6 (7-4), 6-4.

■ TODAY'S ACTION

(7.45pm unless stated)
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Quarter-finals, second leg
FC Porto (0) **v Liverpool** (2)(8pm)
Man City (0) **v Tottenham** (1) (8pm).

Breedon Highland League: Clachnacuddin v Formartine Utd, Wick Academy v Brora Rangers.

IT'S JUST A MAT

STEPHEN McGOWAN
Chief Football Writer

Lack of action has been the problem for ageing Davis at Rangers, says Black

ONE of two high-profile loan signings, the January return of Steven Davis to Rangers was seen as the final push. The bayonet in a charge for the title.

With the midfielder arriving alongside Jermain Defoe, Steven Gerrard gambled on a sprinkling of English Premier League stardust propelling Rangers over the finishing line.

Yet Davis, like his famous team-mate, has flitted in and out of the team. The two have flattered to deceive during a season which has seen the club fail to capture a trophy.

Until the recent 3-0 wins over Motherwell and Hearts, Davis was a sporadic starter.

With the player now aged 34, his former Southampton coach Eric Black could see where the problem lay.

'I think the only problem Steven has faced is a lack of game time,' said Black. 'That hits everyone.

'If you are 21 and you don't play for ten or 15 games, it is still hard coming back into the first team.

'The older you get, the harder it becomes when you have longer gaps of being outside the team. Because it is impossible to replicate a game.

The older you get, the harder it is when you have spells out of the team

'They try in sports science. They try everything to get as close as they can.

'But they can't actually replicate what your body goes through and what your mind goes through during a game.

'That has been hard for him, not to be playing as many games as he would have liked at his age.'

Concerns grew that the second coming of Davis might confirm the old adage. In football, as in life, there's no way of turning back time.

Yet against Hearts and Motherwell, there were signs of the intelligence and string-pulling sharpness returning to the fore.

Gerrard says he wants a 'fit and hungry' Davis in his team. And his performances since the international break — when he gained further game time for Northern Ireland in wins over Estonia and Belarus — suggest he has a future at Ibrox when his Southampton contract lapses this summer.

'Steven is one of the best professionals I have ever worked with,' added Black (right), the Aberdeen icon who also served as Celtic's assistant manager before walking away from the game of his own volition in November 2017.

'He has a rigid programme that he puts his body through. He is also very conscious of how he lives his life and the impact that has on how he performs. Everything is geared towards maximising how he performs.

'He was outstanding at Southampton for about two or three years.

'Latterly, the shape of the team changed a bit under Mauricio Pellegrino and Steven's role changed with it. He dropped down to the bench a bit more.

'Now he is not a young player any more. But he is a fabulous individual to have in your team to circulate and dominate possession.

'He is a fantastic footballer who plays off both feet. I don't need to go through all his attributes because people have seen them for themselves over the years.

'He has an enormous influence on the game in terms of keeping the ball. People might now be saying that he has not done this or that, but Steven was never really a No 10.

'He is not someone who is going to give you five final passes every game and score 18 goals in a season. That's not him.

'But what he will do is have a massive influence on your team in terms of how you circulate the ball and dominate the game.'

For Gerrard, the question of how best to use Davis has been an issue.

Initially used at the head of a diamond, the hope was that he might offer some of the creativity missing from a midfield where holding players outnumber playmakers.

'Whether he will still be there next season, I don't know,' shrugged Black.

'But we played him at Southampton in a three at times. He is not going to get up to people and take the ball away from them. He is physically not big enough, quick enough or strong enough to be that aggressive kind of player.

'But, tactically, he is brilliant. And he is selfless with it as well. He positions himself in such a way that it doesn't become a physical challenge but the opposition player still can't pass the ball forward.

'He uses his experience, his knowledge of the game and all his assets to do the things that he needs to do within a game.

'He is a phenomenal example to younger players. Every day at Southampton, he was the first one in the gym, the first on the training pitch and the last one off.

'You could speak to him individually about any problems in the dressing room or whatever.

'People will say Steven is not a leader because he is not that vocal, but he is a leader through his actions.

'He had a massive influence at Southampton.

'Because of the time he spent at the club and the type of person he is, he had a massive influence on the dressing room.

'That can start to deteriorate when you are not playing every week but Steven didn't let it affect him in that way. He remained the consummate professional.

'It was then the dream move for him to come back to sample life at Ibrox again. He will be fine. He is a top footballer and a top individual.'

14
Davis has had a total of 14 outings for Rangers since his return to the club in January, with seven of them substitute appearances

TER OF TIME

I'll get your coat: Davis is substituted and has struggled to flourish as has Defoe (inset left)

Arfield believes that he will still enjoy a silver lining at Ibrox

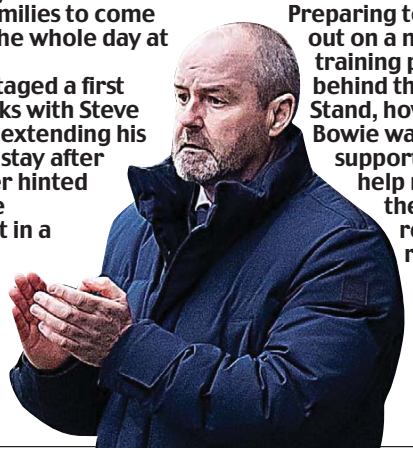
By BRIAN MARJORIBANKS

RANGERS midfielder Scott Arfield has vowed the Ibrox side are on course to end the club's long wait for silverware.
Steven Gerrard's maiden season as Ibrox boss is destined to end with no trophies in the cabinet.
Rangers were knocked out of the Europa League at the group stage and were eliminated from both domestic cups by Aberdeen.
A winless March has effectively ended their title hopes, with Celtic currently 11 points clear in the Premiership with five games left.
But this week Rangers chairman Dave King boldly proclaimed the Ibrox club are 'within tangible reach of becoming the dominant force in Scotland again' — with Rangers legend Ally McCoist urging him to prove it by bankrolling a summer of quality recruits.
Arfield (below), who was recently linked with a move to Southampton, knows a trophyless season is not good enough for a club whose last major silverware was the SPL title in 2011.
But he is in no doubt that his tenure as a player in Govan will see him hoist a trophy aloft.
He said: 'The fact of the matter is we came away with no trophies this season, which is a disappointment for this club.
'When you come through these doors you need to win trophies and that's how you're going to be judged.
'I've got a four-year contract, three left after this, and people can judge me at the end of that, but I know I'll have some trophies.'
Arfield has been a success story since joining Rangers last summer after his contract with Burnley expired.
He scored the first hat-trick of his professional career in a 3-0 win at Motherwell earlier this month, which took the 30-year-old to 11 goals for the season.
Despite trailing leaders Celtic by 11 points in the league, he insists Rangers are on the right track under Gerrard.
In December, a solitary Ryan Jack goal sunk the Parkhead club at Ibrox and this month a James Tavernier mistake allowed James Forrest to clinch a 2-1 win at Parkhead for Neil Lennon's side against a plucky ten-man Rangers.
'People are going to talk about how many points Celtic have won the league by this year, but I think it's very evident in the last two games, particularly the one at Parkhead, that the mentality was there,' Arfield told Sky Sports ahead of Saturday lunchtime's trip to Tynecastle to face Hearts.
'It was a mistake from us from a personal point of view and, if that mistake doesn't happen, we dominated that game for large periods.
'And the game at Ibrox, which we dominated for the full 90 minutes, really shows that we're on course for something here.'

Killie fans told to back club with sell-out

From Back Page

by only selling one stand to away supporters.'
Responding to Kilmarnock's actions, a Rangers spokesperson said: 'We are disappointed with the decision, which will force us to consider carefully what application we will seek for future matches at Rugby Park.'
Yet Bowie responded: 'That's a risk we are prepared to take. Our plan is to get the Moffat Stand back to being a family stand.
'It's also our fanzone area and we have to dismantle that every time one of the Old Firm come to town. Next season, we plan to spend a lot of money on the fanzone. 'We want families to come and spend the whole day at the club.'
Bowie has staged a first round of talks with Steve Clarke over extending his Kilmarnock stay after the manager hinted at a possible summer exit in a recent interview.
Clarke will become a candidate for the Scotland job if Alex McLeish falls on his sword at an SFA board meeting tomorrow.
Preparing to splash out on a new training pitch behind the Moffat Stand, however, Bowie wants supporters to help maintain the club's recent recovery.



Talks: Clarke has met with Bowie already

He said: 'The target is to sell another 1,000 season tickets to counterbalance the loss of fans if we only give Rangers and Celtic one stand.
'There are 18 home games and another 18,000 fans outnumbers the 16,000 Old Firm fans who come for four visits of Celtic and Rangers.'
Killie and Aberdeen are currently locked on 58 points in the battle for third place and a Europa League slot, with Clarke's side ahead on goal difference going into the final five games of the season.
The teams meet at Rugby Park on Saturday.

FOOTBALL EXTRA

Butt arrested over 'assault' on woman

MANCHESTER United head of academy Nicky Butt has been arrested on suspicion of assault.
The 44-year-old was held by police at 2pm yesterday following reports that a woman had been assaulted, hours before United took on Barcelona in their Champions League quarter-final second leg.
Butt remained in custody into the evening and was set to be interviewed by officers as United lost 3-0 in the Nou Camp.
The woman was reported to have suffered a small cut to her hand and did not require hospital treatment. United declined to comment.
Butt, who made 387 appearances for United, was appointed head of academy in 2016 and has been credited with bringing through striker Marcus Rashford.
His arrest left Old Trafford officials — who were concentrating on a hugely important night for United — hurriedly trying to establish details of what had taken place.
Butt won six Premier League titles, three FA Cups and a Champions League with United, after his debut in 1992.
He also played for Newcastle and Birmingham, and won 39 England caps. He is a co-owner of National League side Salford City.
Born and raised in the Manchester suburb of Gorton, Butt married Shelley Barlow in 2008. The pair have two children.
A Greater Manchester Police spokesman said: 'Police were called at around 2pm to reports a woman had been assaulted at a house on Broadway, Hale.
'The woman received a small cut to her hand. A 44-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of assault and remains in custody for questioning.'

Scholes is charged for breaking betting rules

PAUL SCHOLES has been charged by the FA with breaching betting rules while he was a co-owner and director at Salford City.
Former Manchester United and England midfielder Scholes could face a fine or even a ban after allegedly placing 140 bets between August 2015 and January of this year.
The news comes just four weeks after Scholes resigned as manager of Oldham after a tempestuous 31-day tenure.
Scholes declined to comment last night and there was no word from BT Sport, who employ the 44-year-old as a pundit.

**ROSS COUNTY defender Callum Semple, 20, has received an eight-match ban for breaking the SFA's rules on gambling.
The centre-half was found guilty of betting on football between July 2018 and March 1 this year. He will now serve an immediate two-game suspension, with another six matches suspended until the end of next season.**

Snodgrass fined £30k after drug-test incident

SCOTLAND attacker Robert Snodgrass has been fined £30,000 and banned for one game after verbally abusing drug testers at West Ham United's training ground.
Snodgrass appears to have become embroiled in a dispute with testers despite claims that he was not selected for a test nor did he refuse one.
'A misconduct charge against Robert Snodgrass has been found proven,' read an FA statement.
'It was alleged that his language and/or behaviour towards UK Anti-Doping officials on February 6, 2019 was abusive and/or insulting and/or improper.'

WAYNE HENNESSEY has been cleared of allegedly performing a Nazi salute during a Crystal Palace team dinner in Mayfair on January 5. The goalkeeper was pictured holding his right arm out with his left hand under his nose. The FA accepted his claim he had raised his arm to attract a waiter's attention and cupped his hand around his mouth to make his voice carry further.

FORREST'S FORM THIS SEASON HAS BEEN SCARY

SAYS KIERAN TIERNEY

by JOHN McGARRY

IN the case of James Forrest, it's taken Neil Lennon the best part of a decade to reap what he once sowed.

Placed in charge of Celtic's development squad for 2009-10, the Northern Irishman largely resisted the chance to play safe, convenient friendlies on his own doorstep, opting instead to tackle a string of more taxing assignments on the other side of the border.

Aware of the high failure rate at that level, Lennon was coy back then when it came to singling out those he felt were destined for great things. In Forrest's case, he didn't have to be. The evidence of one's own eyes was sufficient.

Blessed with pace, trickery and masterful ball control, it was clear from the outset why the kid from Prestwick had once put down a tennis racket to concentrate his efforts on football.

Lennon's sudden promotion as successor to the failing Tony Mowbray towards the end of that season gave Celtic supporters their first glimpse of a name with a burgeoning reputation. The 18-year-old Forrest scored on his debut in a 4-0 win against Motherwell in May 2010 and returned for pre-season sensing a breakthrough campaign.

He immediately justified the faith Lennon had shown in him. Forrest started in a New Year win at Ibrox in that first full term, claimed three goals and by the end of the season won his first full cap against the Republic of Ireland.

He's one of the best I have ever played with and such a hard worker

He kicked on again the following year, hitting nine goals and winning the SFWA Young Player of the Year award.

But then the plateau arrived. Recurring hamstring and hip injuries. A week out here, a month off there. Fifteen fewer appearances than the previous term and five fewer goals.

There were still glorious moments. A heart-stopping stoppage-time winner against Shakhter Karagandy in a Champions League qualifier chief among them.

But the narrative surrounding the player increasingly became one of frustration at an inability to realise his full potential.

When Lennon made way for Ronny Deila in 2014, concerns around Forrest only grew. Ill-suited to the system the Norwegian was playing, he seemed to be spending more time in Harley Street than Kerrydale Street.

He scored just six times during Deila's two-year tenure and, despite his protests to the contrary, seemed to be heading for the exit door before the ex-Stromsgodset manager beat him to it.

It's hard to put the player's change of fortune under Brendan Rodgers down to simply an even break. One of the former Liverpool manager's priorities upon taking charge was to tie the winger down on a long-term deal and introduce an injury-prevention programme he had evidently been needing.

With Patrick Roberts snapping at his ankles, the transformation was striking. Forrest hit eight goals in 2016-17, 17 last season including an elusive strike against Rangers and has already contributed the same figure this season.

He's not missed a beat since Rodgers bolted for Leicester, either. It was Forrest who provided the breakthrough goal for Lennon in the Scottish Cup quarter-final against Hibernian and in Sunday's semi-final against Aberdeen — with a late winner against Rangers the meat in the sandwich.

The word 'unplayable' is now a constant with his name.

For Lennon — the man who once viewed him as his protege — witnessing this graduation with honours could scarcely be more pleasing.

'James' form is scary,' agreed team-mate Kieran Tierney. 'He's had a brilliant season. At his goal (against Aberdeen), I was actually screaming for the ball and next thing I know I'm running towards him to say: "Good job, Jamsie".

'I am running out of compliments for him — we are complimenting him every week now. He's scoring goals, getting assists and it really is fantastic to have a player like him in your team.

'He has scored great goals and important goals this season. That shows how good a player he is. He is one of the best players I have ever played with. I hate playing against him in training, which I've said plenty of times, because he's just so difficult to go up against.

'I'm so pleased for him. He's such a hard worker. He is one that keeps his head down, he doesn't like the headlines, he is happy to get on with his football. He's a really special player.'

It's not just the ability to deliver game-defining goals that have distinguished the 27-year-old as one of the front runners for the various player of the year awards.

Once drawn like a magnet to the line in search of crossing opportunities, he's now equally as likely to cut inside and eliminate opponents. The 20 assists he has claimed this term have not gone unnoticed.

'The consistency James has shown over recent years has been brilliant, especially for a winger,' added Tierney.

'It's such a difficult position to play. And now, in so many games, he's getting doubled up on because they know he's such a threat and yet he still manages to find space and take men on. It's a joy for all of us to play in the same team as him.

'He is always looking for the ball. Hey, we want him on the ball. That was our instruction on Sunday — if we got the ball, give it to James and watch it go. He is that good. James can deal with what any team can do against him. Sunday was another great performance by him.'

The sense of unfulfilled potential is no more. Very much at the peak of his powers as the peak years of his career come into view, anyone presenting an alternative candidate to sweep the boards when the prizegiving dinners come around is well advised to have a compelling case.

'He is, of course, a candidate for player of the year,' said Tierney.

'That is 100 per cent. We have a few in here who could win it. Callum McGregor is another one. You know what you're going to get from him in every game and it doesn't matter what position he is played in.

'That will be a tough one to call. But they would be my top two.'

The trouble for the competition is that Celtic have so many players

THE MAKING OF A GOAL MACHINE

SEASON	GOALS
2009-10	1
2010-11	3
2011-12	9
2012-13	4
2013-14	6
2014-15	4
2015-16	2
2016-17	8
2017-18	17
2018-19	17

Stunner: Forrest celebrates with team-mates after his excellent goal (inset) against Aberdeen lit up the semi-final

capable of turning it on in any given day that beating them is becoming like catching lightning in a jar.

Sensing a vulnerability after a change in manager, Aberdeen, like Rangers, did their utmost to knock Lennon's side out of their rhythm. Both proved to be the most futile of exercises.

'The extra man really did help us at the time,' said Tierney of Dom Ball's dismissal.

'I thought we played really well. Obviously, the one-man advantage helped and then when they went down to nine men, the job was done as long as we kept focused, which the boys did.

'Maybe they showed a bit of frustration late on because they were losing and not getting on the ball as much as they would have wanted. But all we could do was concentrate on ourselves.

'We have that physical side as well, so we coped with it.'

Striving to halt trebles is a family trait for Lee

By BRIAN MARJORIBANKS

HEARTS midfielder Olly Lee will walk on to the Hampden turf against Celtic next month aiming to become a destroyer of Treble dreams.

It's a task that proved beyond his father when he found himself starring in a similar movie at Wembley exactly 20 years before.

Back in May 1999, Rob Lee was a pivotal part of the Newcastle side who lost 2-0 to Manchester United in the FA Cup final following goals from Teddy Sheringham and Paul Scholes.

Four days later, Sir Alex Ferguson's side would complete the third leg of their unprecedented haul of league, cup and Champions League wins by beating Bayern Munich 2-1 in a dramatic night at the Nou Camp.

A year earlier, Lee senior had suffered his first FA Cup final heartache, skippering Newcastle in their 2-0 loss to Arsenal when Marc Overmars and Nicolas Anelka were on the scoresheet.

Young Olly was in the crowd of 80,000 at Wembley for both his dad's big days.

Now the roles will be reversed next month — and he hopes his dad will be cheering him on to success in Mount Florida.

'I have seen my dad lose twice in the FA Cup final so hopefully I can go one better in the Scottish Cup final,' said the 27-year-old (below).

'I was at both of his finals but I remember the second one against Manchester United better. They were unfortunate occasions for the old man and he doesn't have fond memories.

'He never stops going on about his cup runs with Newcastle — but he speaks more about the semi-finals.

'When it comes to the finals, he says they didn't quite turn up on the day.

'Hopefully that won't happen to us and we will turn up and put in a great performance.

'I think there will be a full busload of friends and family coming up to Hampden to see me. It will be a great occasion for everyone and it is one we are all really looking forward to.

'Hopefully I can have some better memories than my dad. That would be brilliant. It would mean the world.'

After his two consecutive FA Cup final defeats, Rob Lee went on to open the scoring in the 2000 semi-final at Wembley.

But Chelsea stormed back to win 2-1 thanks to a double from Gus Poyet.

Last Saturday, Lee may not have emulated his dad in scoring in a major semi-final but he was content to have a hand in all three goals as Hearts beat Inverness 3-0 to cruise into the final.

'I didn't score. I was desperate to score,' he said.

'But if you can't get a goal, you want to be involved in all three goals and I am pleased with how it went against Inverness.

'We weren't as good as we wanted to be first half. We didn't come out of the traps and it was maybe one of those semi-finals where it was a bit nervy and there was a lack of quality.

'But in the second half we came out of the traps faster and we went for their throats. We had a few shots and a few corners and we broke Inverness down.

'We got the three goals we needed and then we enjoyed the last 15 minutes, which is not something that always happens in semi-finals.

'It was a great occasion and we're all looking forward to coming back to Hampden next month.'

Lee's first season in Scottish football has seen him endure mixed fortunes in semi-finals. Back in November, Hearts lost 3-0 to Celtic in the Betfred Cup last-four clash at Murrayfield.

Last weekend was a far more enjoyable occasion at Hampden as Craig Levein's side ran out comfortable winners against John Robertson's Championship play-off hopefuls.

Despite his dad's distinguished career in the game, Lee won't be seeking his advice ahead of what will be his biggest match to date.

'It means everything to me to reach the final,' said the former Luton midfielder.

'Winning at Hampden on Saturday was a great experience. I feel so lucky to have played at Murrayfield as well this season, too.

'When I came up to Scotland I wanted to play in big games and that's two semi finals — and a final to come next month.

'I wouldn't have had games like this down south, so I am so excited for the end of May because it will be a great occasion.

'Will I be asking my dad for advice? He's actually quite laid back.

'I am 27 now and, while I might not have played in games as big as a Scottish Cup final, I know my game and what I can bring to the team.

'I'll just play my natural game and hopefully we will be all right.

'It should be a good match with two good teams going at it and hopefully we can come out on top.'

Fractures: Christie

CHRISTIE CUP FINAL SWEAT

From Back Page

Aberdeen loan star Christie thanked fans for their support and concern following his ordeal and shared a photo on social media which showed his black eye and swelling on the side of his face.

The Parkhead club have confirmed that the Scotland international suffered fractures and he is due to undergo surgery tomorrow.

No timescale has been put on his recovery. But the 24-year-old, who scored the only goal against Aberdeen in the Betfred Cup final last December, will be desperate to make it back in time for the Hampden showpiece with Hearts on May 25 — and the chance to play his part in history by clinching an unprecedented treble Treble.

Last night a Celtic spokesman said: 'Celtic Football Club can confirm that Ryan Christie has suffered multiple facial fractures following the incident during Sunday's Scottish Cup semi-final at Hampden.

'Ryan is scheduled to undergo surgery on Thursday of this week.

'We are not able, at this stage, to give any specific indication on a timescale for his return to action but, of course, everyone at Celtic wishes Ryan all the best for his full recovery.

'Ryan would also like to thank everyone sincerely for the many wishes of support he has received.'

CELTIC legend Billy McNeill is to receive a prestigious award from Spanish club Athletic Bilbao in tribute to his 'faithful service' to the Parkhead side.

Athletic's 'One Club Man Award' was set up four years ago with the aim of honouring players whose career with one team represents the values of 'commitment, loyalty, responsibility, sportsmanship and respect', which embody the Basque side's own identity.

Celtic chief executive Peter Lawwell said: 'Billy is a hugely deserving recipient of this award. On behalf of everyone at Celtic, I would like to send our sincere congratulations to Billy and the entire McNeill family.'

Liverpool need to add trophies to the tributes

DOMINIC KING reports from Oporto

LIVERPOOL arrived in Portugal late last night to be greeted by a compliment from Porto manager Sergio Conceicao that was as unexpected as it was gushing.

'I like their game model,' Conceicao purred, while Liverpool were in transit. 'I like the way they play and the way they are with the ball — and without it also. It is similar to how I see football. In a lot of these moments in a game, they are the best team in the world.'

They were, as Jurgen Klopp and James Milner were quick to recognise, nice words but while Liverpool's manager raised an eyebrow about the legitimacy of the sentiment — an attempt, perhaps, to lure them into a false sense of security — his vice-captain set about pulling the claim apart.

Though Liverpool's form is blistering and they are odds-on to reach the Champions League semi-finals, having beaten Porto 2-0 in their first meeting at Anfield last Tuesday, one major facet must change for Conceicao's words to have real substance. Milner was only too eager to point this out.

'You get those compliments by playing good football over a sustained period of time,' said Milner, whose calming presence will be crucial in the Estadio do Dragao tonight. 'But to be that, I think you have to win trophies. That's something we haven't done yet and it's something we are trying to do. Not getting over the line is disappointing, but we have the opportunity to change that. That first one is always the hardest.

'It's down to us to prove it and win these games — and hopefully win at least one trophy this season. There are a lot of good teams between us and the last game of the season. We have to keep improving and keep playing like we are doing at the moment.'

Milner emphasised that Liverpool have reached three finals since he has been at Anfield and there can be no doubting they are progressing, as a sequence of seven consecutive wins since March 3 shows, but they need to be remembered for more than just the quality of their football. Those questions could be answered emphatically before the end of the campaign and the odds on them completing the double of Premier League and Champions League are contracting with each positive result but Milner is not getting carried away.

First things first, they have to hold off Porto. Liverpool won by five unanswered goals at this venue last February but they will need to be equally proficient if they are to reach the last four once again. Milner is a good gauge to the mood in the squad and, certainly, he is not distracted.

'There isn't too much talk about what's going on and what might happen,' said Milner. 'It's how we've been all season. We are training the same way, the mentality going into the games is the same, that's what we can concentrate on, one game at a time and keep pushing.

'It's a massive positive in the dressing room that every game is just like the next game. There is plenty of talk outside the dressing room and in the media and social media, so it's hard to get away from it. But the lads are focusing on what we can control.'

The second leg should feature a fascinating battle between Porto's fast-raiding and tough Brazilian left-back Alex Telles and Mo Salah, fresh from his stunning goal against Chelsea on Sunday.

Yet one major thing in Liverpool's favour is the fact that they have been so resilient defensively. They had little trouble keeping Bayern Munich at bay last month in Germany and the last time they let a two-goal lead slip to lose a match was at Bournemouth in December 2016. That, however, has not stopped Klopp reinforcing the message that nothing has been decided.

'I always tell the boys the truth when I analyse,' said Klopp. 'I don't make things bigger or smaller than they are.

'When we play Manchester City, I don't say they have no clue about football or say it's the best team in the world. We analyse for us.

'There's no risk that I need to convince the boys that Porto are really good. They know it already. We played Roma and they can be an uncomfortable opponent but I didn't really see a chance for them when they played Porto (in the last 16). Porto were in control. So we should be prepared.'

Tough: Telles

WATCHING BRIEF...

PORTO (0) **v LIVERPOOL** (2)

(probable teams)

Kick-off: 8pm Estadio do Dragao.

TV & Radio: **LIVE** on BT Sport 3 from 7.15pm and talkSPORT.

Referee: Danny Makkelie (Hol).

■ **Porto have won their last four CL games at home.**

(4-3-3)

Casillas

Pepe, Militao

Corona, Telles

Danilo, Torres, Herrera

Marega, Soares, Brahimi

Mane, Firmino, Salah

Wijnaldum, Fabinho, Milner

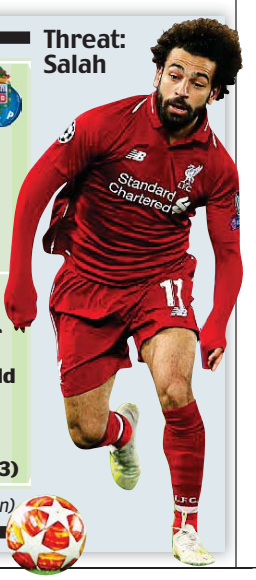
Robertson, Alexander-Arnold

Van Dijk, Matip

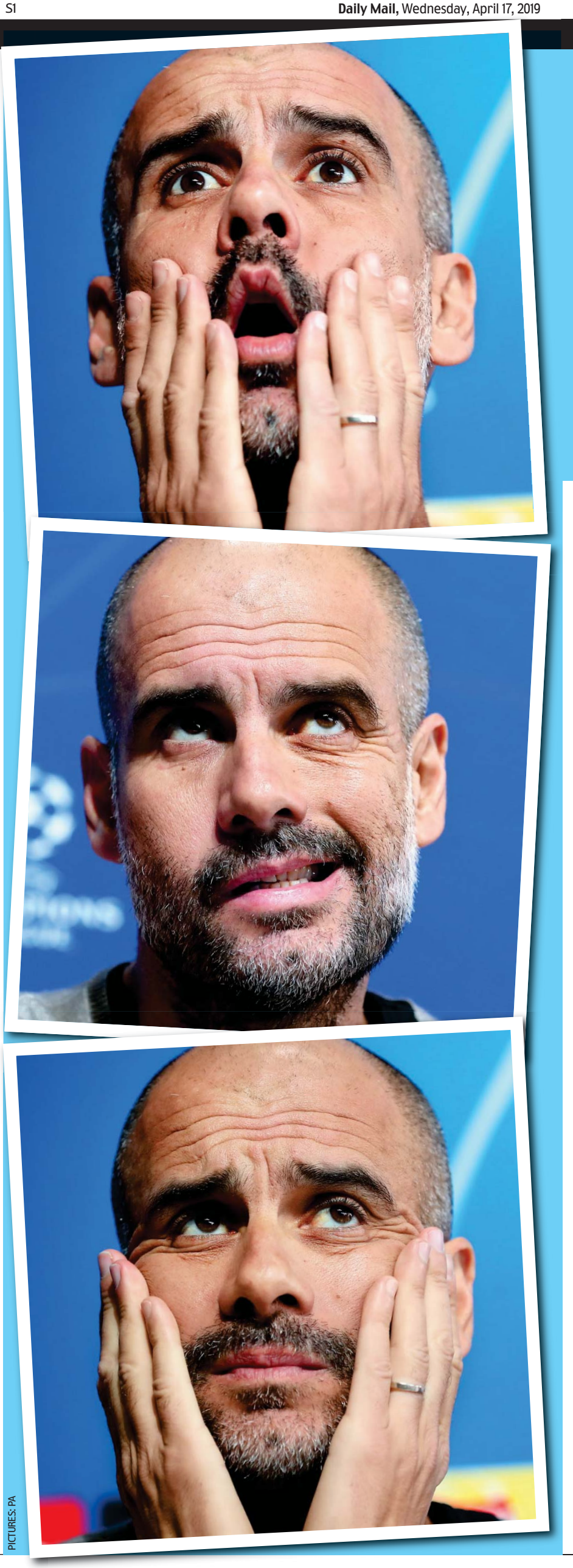
Alisson

(4-3-3)

(Name in yellow = one yellow card from ban)



Threat: Salah



PICTURES: PA

TIME FOR PEP TO ROLL THE DICE

Only two wins in four days will do for City boss as he goes for broke to keep Quadruple dream alive

by JACK GAUGHAN

A DIFFERENT way of passing the time is emerging inside the Manchester City dressing room as Pep Guardiola's players hunt for fresh ways to relax.

Benjamin Mendy has introduced the South American dice game, Perudo, to his team-mates and four new boxes arrived at the City Football Academy this week.

A hit with France's World Cup winners last summer, Perudo encourages high-risk strategies and celebrates the art of bluffing. Both are traits their manager revels in deploying — particularly in the Champions League.

Kidology was very much at play before a tantalising double-header with Tottenham, as he sarcastically agreed that not lifting the Champions League would be considered a failure.

What he could not dispute is that City need to roll the dice this week. Guardiola described the two home games against Spurs as season-defining. And they have to win them both — tonight in the Champions League second leg and on Saturday in the league — if a hugely promising campaign is not destined to fall flat.

Two wins and the prospect of an historic Quadruple would be solidified by Saturday afternoon. Equally, City's season might go up in smoke with draws or defeats. The FA Cup and League Cup double would be scant consolation.

'If we don't win these games we'll be out of two competitions,' said Guardiola. 'They are absolute finals for us. I've had that feeling from weeks ago. But I've said many times that the Premier League is the most important.'

On the march: City's players train ahead of a crunch second-leg clash against Tottenham tonight

The message coming from his players is that the Quadruple is firmly in their thoughts. John Stones talked up the squad's chances, saying: 'We're still on for the Quadruple and that's the dream we want to achieve. We're fighting for it every day. We've got to trust it brings the best out of us.

'We've got to enjoy the pressure of fighting for the titles and these big games. You get the best out of yourselves when you are under that scrutiny and you find who you are as a player and the players around you. It is a privileged position to be in and we have to take every opportunity.'

For that to come to fruition, Guardiola will need to win his first Champions League since 2011. The Catalan's record in the competition is derided by his detractors, particularly a failure to reach a final during his three years in charge of Bayern Munich.

There have been big moments when Guardiola has been found wanting in this competition, but also big moments where his genius has been plain. He has won it twice, after all, in 2009 and 2011. One more would put him on a par with Bob Paisley, Carlo Ancelotti and Zinedine Zidane. Some around City believe that starting with two holding midfielders and resting Kevin De Bruyne for last week's 1-0 defeat at Spurs might also prove to be a masterstroke come the full-time whistle tonight.

De Bruyne certainly looked fresh and carried City during the latter stages of Sunday's victory at Crystal Palace.

'When my teams don't win the Champions League, they "fail" all the time,' said Guardiola, eyebrows raised. 'I have to win. The chairman asked me to win three times in a row. We try to do our best and tomorrow we will see.'

WATCHING BRIEF...

MAN CITY (0) **v TOTTENHAM** (1)

(Name in yellow = one yellow card from ban)

Kick-off: 8pm, Etihad Stadium.
TV & Radio: **LIVE** on BT Sport 2 and BBC Radio 5 Live from 7pm.
Referee: Cuneyt Cakir (Turkey).

The semi-finals of this competition are still largely uncharted territory for City. Their only appearance was in 2016, months before Guardiola arrived, and that is partly why the manager objects so strongly to questions about his record.

He has described City as 'teenagers' in Europe given their lack of experience and knows the club's supporters are not completely engaged because of long-running disputes with UEFA. Despite all that, there is a realisation that this talented squad must now go further.

'Vinnie (Kompany) made a good point before Crystal Palace that these sort of games can bring out the best in us,' said Stones.

'We have to trust ourselves. We have to believe.'

POCH TREATING THIS AS FREE HIT, BUT NEXT SEASON GETS SERIOUS

MAURICIO POCHETTINO was enjoying himself so much that when Tottenham's press officer attempted to halt last night's news conference, the manager stopped him.

'No, I am comfortable. It's not too many times you play the quarter-finals — let me enjoy it, please,' he said with a smile.

Tottenham are treating this Champions League tilt as a free hit, but Pochettino revealed that their attitude will change dramatically next season.

By JACK GAUGHAN

He claimed that from August, when Spurs begin the first full campaign in their new £1billion stadium, they should expect to win trophies and challenge for the biggest honours.

'A chapter is going to be closed and we are going to start another chapter and we need to translate to our fans what we need to do,' Pochettino said.

'With our new stadium, we need to fight for the Champions League and the Premier League because we have the tools to be there.

'It is going to be tough to find a way to be on the same level (as Real Madrid and Barcelona). There is a lot of work to be on the level we want. If your expectation is to win the league, maybe you need to sign players or have a different budget.

'We are here now because we love to compete and we love to win. If you compare us with another team, we are in a different financial position or had a different strategy over the last four or five years.

'We are achieving a lot, that if you go back, no one would believe. For me, a title with Tottenham is a massive dream.'

Spurs hold a one-goal lead from last week's absorbing first leg. They must preserve that without the injured Harry Kane, Harry Winks or Eric Dier. Dele Alli's hand injury will be assessed.

Hugo Lloris, wary of the attacking threat of a wounded City, urged his team to 'use their brains' as they hunt away goals.

'We have to try to enjoy it,' Lloris said. 'We're all excited and ready to fight to make history. It's important to leave the pitch without regret.

'Our project is clear. Every season we improve. Whatever happens, we can be proud of everything.'

Pressure had not touched Spurs in this competition until Pochettino's ex-Paris Saint-Germain team-mate Ronaldinho claimed yesterday they have the ability to land the trophy.

'Wow,' Pochettino said. 'He knows a lot about football and I respect him. Why not? In football, anything can happen. Like in life, you must believe.

'It is good that people like Ronaldinho think we have the quality to win. That increases our belief.

'I learned a lot from him — laughing, smiling, dancing. Football is a sport. If you want to play well, you have to smile.'

MARTIN SAMUEL

at the Nou Camp

BARCELONA	Messi 16, 20 Coutinho 61	3
MAN UTD		0

(Barcelona win 4-0 on aggregate)

MESSI MAGIC FLOORS UNITED

Barca masterclass puts Ole's side to the sword

Red faces: De Gea buries his head after his gaffe

IF THERE were any illusions, Manchester United now know how far they must travel under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer: the gulf that exists between them and the elite of the European game.

A panicked opening aside, this was as comfortable as the scoreline suggests, the game never in doubt after 20 minutes, Barcelona and Lionel Messi superior, the weakness in this United group heartlessly exposed.

When Alexis Sanchez came on to a warm reception with 11 minutes to go, it was a reminder. The player whom United broke the bank to recruit is in essence a Barcelona cast-off. Those who are good enough to make it at the Nou Camp will not be leaving for Old Trafford any time soon. Barcelona is the home of the best in a way Manchester United has not been for some time now.

Messi has not scored at the quarter-final stage of this competition since April 2013 but he made up for it here. As for Philippe Coutinho, any thoughts he may regret his move from Liverpool will be countered by nights like this — and the goal that gave the scoreline the emphasis it deserved.

Messi played a long crossfield ball from deep in his own half to Jordi Alba, who found Coutinho on the overlap inside. He cut towards the centre once more and struck a delightful, curving shot, high and over the reach of David de Gea.

If Barcelona were disappointing at Old Trafford, this win and 4-0 aggregate outcome are a reminder of the standards they continue to set. Standards United can only dream of reaching right now.

The problem for United was that everything was on their side but the one aspect that matters most: quality. They had Solskjaer at the wheel, they had their history at this great stadium and the night it gave them in 1999, they had the mythology that has built around their transformation this season, the comeback in Paris and the idea this could be their year. One problem with that. They couldn't live with Barcelona after a sprightly first two minutes. In that period United took their hosts by surprise, hit the bar and fumbled a second good chance. Had either of those gone in, who knows? The fact is they didn't and Barcelona are not the type of team to let mistakes in front of goal slide. So when Marcus Rashford broke through after just 35 seconds and, instead of a firm, low finish, tried a hybrid chip, clipping the bar, there were immediate thoughts it could be a pivotal moment. So, too, the pass that found Scott McTominay in a ridiculous amount of space immediately after. The ball got trapped under his feet and the danger passed; and with it, maybe, the hopes of United.

When Barcelona first scored, United could content themselves with the knowledge the mission hadn't changed: they still needed to score twice to progress. The second, however, was a killer.

Now United needed three in the Nou Camp, against a team that had not surrendered a first-leg lead at home in European competition since succumbing to Metz in the 1984-85 European Cup-winners' Cup.

And there was nothing beyond that first two minutes that suggested they had it in them.

First, before the Messi show, United had to survive a penalty call. Fred got a foot in and in doing so sent Ivan Rakitic rolling, rolling, rolling, like a ball on a downward slope at Augusta National.

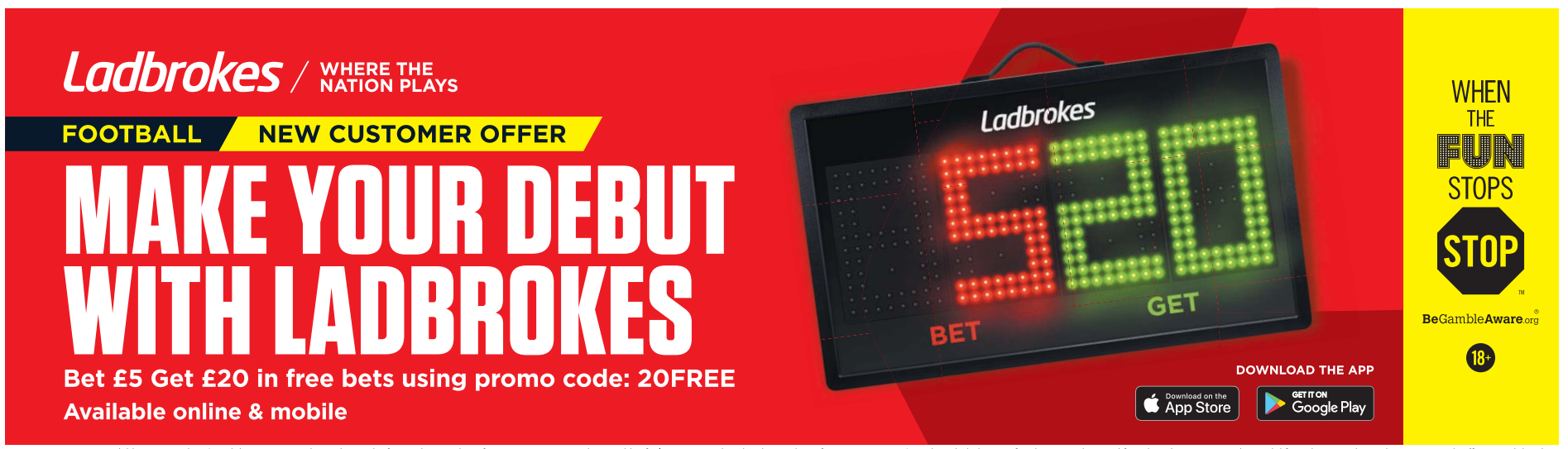
By the time the Croat came to rest, referee Felix Brych was pointing to the spot. At which point VAR did its thing. A close-up showed Fred won the ball. No penalty. Justice done. Not that it mattered; within ten minutes United were 2-0 down.

The first goal started with Ashley Young getting in a tangle that served up the ball to Messi.

The Argentine beat Fred and glided past Phil Jones before curling it sweetly out of De Gea's reach. There was nothing the finest goalkeeper in the English game could do.

Sadly, the same could not be said of the second goal. The blame lies with De Gea but, for United, the problems began when Fred attempted a Cruyff turn perilously close to his own penalty area. Cruyff wouldn't have attempted a Cruyff turn in that position — and he knew how to do them, too.

So Fred lost the ball to Messi, who again left Jones in a different postcode and hit the ball low. It wasn't his finest effort and should have been easily stopped but the often infallible De Gea made arguably his biggest error since his first season in English football.



£20 IN FREE BETS: Available to new online & mobile customers only. Applies to the first real money bet of £5+ on any sports market at odds of 1/2 or greater placed within 14 days of registration. Tote & Pools excluded. 4 x £5 free bets issued on qualifying bet placement. Free bets valid for 7 days. Free bet stake not returned. Offer not valid with Cashout. Paypal & other deposit types excluded. Full terms at ladbrokes.com. 18+ PLEASE BET RESPONSIBLY begambleaware.org - Need Help? Call the National Gambling Helpline on 0808 802 0133

This was a simple shot and the ball squirmed horribly underneath his body.

He reappeared after half-time to find Barcelona fans bowing down in mock admiration. Real Madrid will no doubt have been watching, too. A sobering night all round as Coutinho's wonderful goal piled on the pain for United.

BARCELONA (4-3-3): ter Stegan 6; Roberto 6 (Semedo 71), Pique 7, Lenglet 6, Alba 7; Rakitic 7, Busquets 7, Arthur 6 (Vidal 75); Messi 9, Suarez 7, Coutinho 7 (Dembele 81). **Subs not used:** Cillessen, Malcom, Umtiti, Aleñá. **Booked:** Suarez.

MAN UTD (4-3-3): De Gea 4; Lindelof 5, Smalling 5, Jones 5, Young 5; McTominay 6, Fred 4, Pogba 5; Lingard 5 (Sanchez 80), Rashford 6 (Lukaku 73), Martial 4 (Dalot 65). **Subs not used:** Romero, Mata, Pereira Matic. **Booked:** None.

Man of the match: Lionel Messi.

Referee: Felix Brych (Germany).

Attendance: 96,708.

Lethal Lionel proved to be the difference, says Solskjaer

From Back Page

that's the level we have to aspire to. We can get there but we have loads of work to do.

'If we want to get back to United's true traditions and level, we know we have to challenge the Barcelonas. I have to say they were a couple of levels above tonight and at Old Trafford.

'We did well to get here but you could see the difference between the two teams. The quality of their finishing was outstanding.

'We know there's work to be done. I've said all along this isn't going to change overnight. The next few years are going to be massive.

'We're on with the job and have spoken to the players. We need to get the best out of each other and create an environment of top-class attitude. We've got good players to work with but, as I said, we've got a rebuilding job.'

Trailing 1-0 from the first leg at Old Trafford, United started well and hit the bar through Marcus Rashford in the opening 30 seconds. But they were floored by two goals in quick succession from Messi that effectively ended the tie.

The second came from an awful blunder by David de Gea, who allowed Messi's tame shot to somehow slip under his body.

'That's unfortunate with goalkeepers,' added Solskjaer. 'When you make an error, that will be remembered.

'He made some fantastic saves and his contribution to the team is good, but sometimes that happens. 'You know the level. You cannot slip up and make mistakes and not take the chances you get yourself. We didn't capitalise on our great chance, then they have two shots on target and two goals.'

Messi told Spanish TV: 'We were a bit cold and nervous at the start but after that we took control and played some spectacular football. 'The semi-final will be tough whether it's Porto or Liverpool. Ajax's win (at Juventus) shows how tough this competition is.'

JUVENTUS	1
AJAX	2

(Ajax win 3-2 on aggregate)

Leading the way: Ajax captain De Ligt celebrates his winner

Sheer De Ligt for Ajax after making semis

CRAIG HOPE
at the Allianz Stadium

AJAX penned an extraordinary new chapter in their Champions League fairy tale by eliminating Cristiano Ronaldo's Juventus.

It was graduation day here for Erik ten Hag's energetic, enterprising young team — conquerors of Real Madrid in the previous round — as they came from behind in Turin to shatter the Italian aristocrats. Ronaldo had threatened to lecture the upstarts in the competition that has become his specialist subject.

After he opened the scoring with his 126th Champions League goal in the first half, it seemed unimaginable that Juve would not progress. We should have known better.

This Ajax side never know when they are beaten and so it proved when goals from Donny van de Beek and 19-year-old captain Matthijs de Ligt catapulted them into the last four, where they will face the winners of Manchester City versus Tottenham.

The last time the Dutch club qualified for the semis was in 1997, pre-dating the birth of their scorers. They are the youngest team in the last eight — an average age of 24 years and eight months. The teenage hero of the night De Ligt explained: 'It's bizarre, not normal. I have no words for it. 'We have defeated Real and Juventus, two intended title candidates. We are very proud, the supporters are proud, the city is proud.'

A scrappy and tense opening gave no clues to the drama that would unfold. Even Ronaldo looked subdued in the early stages.

Ten Hag had said on the eve of the game that he would not worry about man-marking the Portuguese superstar. You assumed such a casual and careless tactic would not extend to set-pieces.

Bum deal: Ronaldo suffers as Juve crash out

But apparently it did, at least judging by the manner in which the unmarked Ronaldo gleefully strode on to Miralem Pjanic's corner to head home on 28 minutes.

It was so easy that something must have been amiss, a doubt that soon spread to the officials. A VAR check was activated amid suggestions there may have been a foul in the build-up. All that could be seen, however, was De Ligt stumbling into the back of his own team-mate Joel Veltman and the goal stood.

With the first leg having finished 1-1 in Amsterdam, it was beginning to look like it was Juve's night. That was until Ajax's leveller six minutes later.

There was a touch of the surreal about it, too, Van de Beek looking yards offside when Hakim Ziyech's scuffed shot transformed itself into a cunning through ball which ran into the midfielder's path. Van de Beek duly finished from eight yards and, once again, it went to VAR. Juventus winger Federico Bernardeschi's lazy defending had played the scorer onside.

It was a deserved equaliser. Not for what had gone before, but for what followed.

Juventus were visibly rattled as this Ajax side went after a winner in normal time.

They would have had one sooner had it not been for the claws of Wojciech Szczesny, the Juventus goalkeeper producing a pair of flying saves to deny both Ziyech and Van de Beek.

But Szczesny was helpless as De Ligt rose to meet Lasse Schone's out-swinging corner on 67 minutes, a breathless winner which sent the Dutch masters into the last four for the first time in 22 years.

Ronaldo trudged off in disbelief at the end. And no wonder. This will be the first time he hasn't been in the semi-finals of the Champions League since season 2009-10.

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BARCELONA 3
MAN UNITED 0
(Barcelona win 4-0 on aggregate)

JUVENTUS .. 1
AJAX 2
(Ajax win 3-2 on aggregate)

Messi a class above, says Ole

By CHRIS WHEELER

OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER admitted that Lionel Messi and Barcelona are in a different class from Manchester United after their Champions League dream died. Messi scored twice in the space of four minutes last night as United lost 3-0 to exit at the quarter-final stage 4-0 on aggregate.

On a night when Cristiano Ronaldo and Juventus went out to Ajax in Turin, Solskjaer acknowledged that United's emphatic defeat highlighted the task facing him to make the club a major force in Europe again.

'Messi's different class,' said Solskjaer. 'He and Ronaldo have been the best players of the last decade. Now tonight Messi shows his quality.

'That is the Barcelona team here, and

TURN TO PAGE 83, COL 2

On target: Messi and Coutinho

Christie in sweat to make final

By BRIAN MARJORIBANKS

RYAN CHRISTIE faces a race against time to make the Scottish Cup final after Celtic confirmed he suffered multiple facial fractures following his clash of heads with Dominic Ball. The Parkhead attacker was fitted with a neck brace and had to be stretchered off the field before being rushed to hospital.

Already on a booking, Aberdeen defender Ball was shown a second yellow card for his part in the incident during Sunday's semi-final at Hampden.

After a lengthy delay, Neil Lennon's team went on to win 3-0 against a Dons side that was later reduced to nine men when Lewis Ferguson was also sent off.

On Monday night, former

TURN TO PAGE 79, COL 3

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EXCLUSIVE

By STEPHEN McGOWAN

Killie urge fans to fill Rugby Park after snub to Rangers

KILMARNOCK fans have been urged to back the club's decision to slash Rangers' ticket allocation for the final game of the season by filling Rugby Park.

Normally given the Chadwick and Moffat Stands for trips to Ayrshire, the Ibrox club have reacted angrily to the halving of their usual 8,000 tickets by threatening to turn down a potential return to that allocation in future.

But Killie's largest shareholder Billy Bowie insists that is a risk his club have to take if they are to bring families back to games, and he has challenged fans to help their team achieve a third-place Premiership finish by ensuring there is a bumper home crowd on May 19.

Defending the decision to only give Rangers fans the Chadwick Stand, Bowie told *Sportsmail*: 'There are a lot of our fans who tell us they stay away from games involving the Old Firm teams.

'The message we are putting out is that this was a board decision. We listened to the fans and they now have to come out and support the team.

'It's not our intention to punish Rangers fans. We are there to look after our own fans and try to get them back to Rugby Park.

'Our attendances are up to an average of 5,000 home fans. It was closer to 2,500 when I first got involved at some games.

'We've always had a desire to get the families back to Rugby Park. It's our last game of the season and things are going well on the pitch.

'This is our second year in the top six and we thought: "Let's give it a go".

'I can see the growth and I'm confident we will attract a large support for the final game — especially now we are making it more like a friendly atmosphere

TURN TO PAGE 77, COL 1

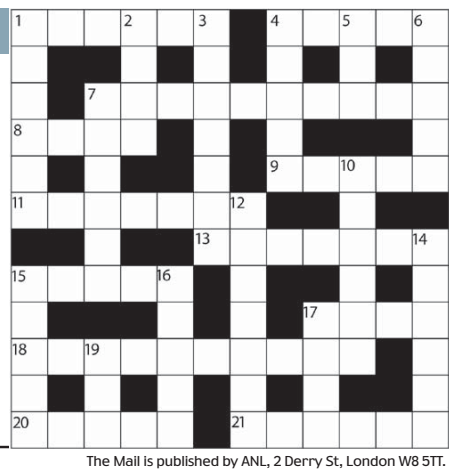
QUICK CROSSWORD 8,203

ACROSS
1 Light sleep (6)
4 Mix and combine (5)
7 Do as others do (6,4)
8 Style and vigour (4)
9 Long grass on a golf course (5)
11 Austere (7)
13 Nil (7)
15 Vapour from hot water (5)
17 Dauntless or daring (4)
18 Moral or legal requirement (10)
20 Lift up (5)
21 Mattress filled with straw (6)

DOWN
1 Drinking toast (6)
2 Twelve o'clock midday (4)
3 Luxurious railway coach (7)
4 Arbour (5)
5 Australian bird (3)
6 Get rid of (5)
7 Outward appearance (6)
10 Agreement or accord (6)
12 Without interruption (3-4)
14 Small ingenious device (6)
15 Deadly sin (5)
16 Power or force (5)
17 Basin (4)
19 Garland of flowers (3)

Today's solution will be published tomorrow but if you would like to hear it now, call **0904 470 1070**. Calls cost 65p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Phone & Text Services Helpline: DMG Media Mobile & TV – **0808 272 0808**

TUESDAY'S SOLUTION (No 8,202): ACROSS: 1 Holdall. 5 Cure. 7 Bin. 8 Mothball. 9 Trend. 10 Land. 13 Soot. 14 Arid. 18 Erse. 19 Offal. 21 Clavicle. 22 Gut. 23 Wool. 24 None too. DOWN: 1 Habitual. 2 Lingerie. 3 Armada. 4 Lately. 5 Cabins. 6 Rile. 11 Dogfight. 12 Stiletto. 15 Drivel. 16 Beacon. 17 Modern. 20 Alto.



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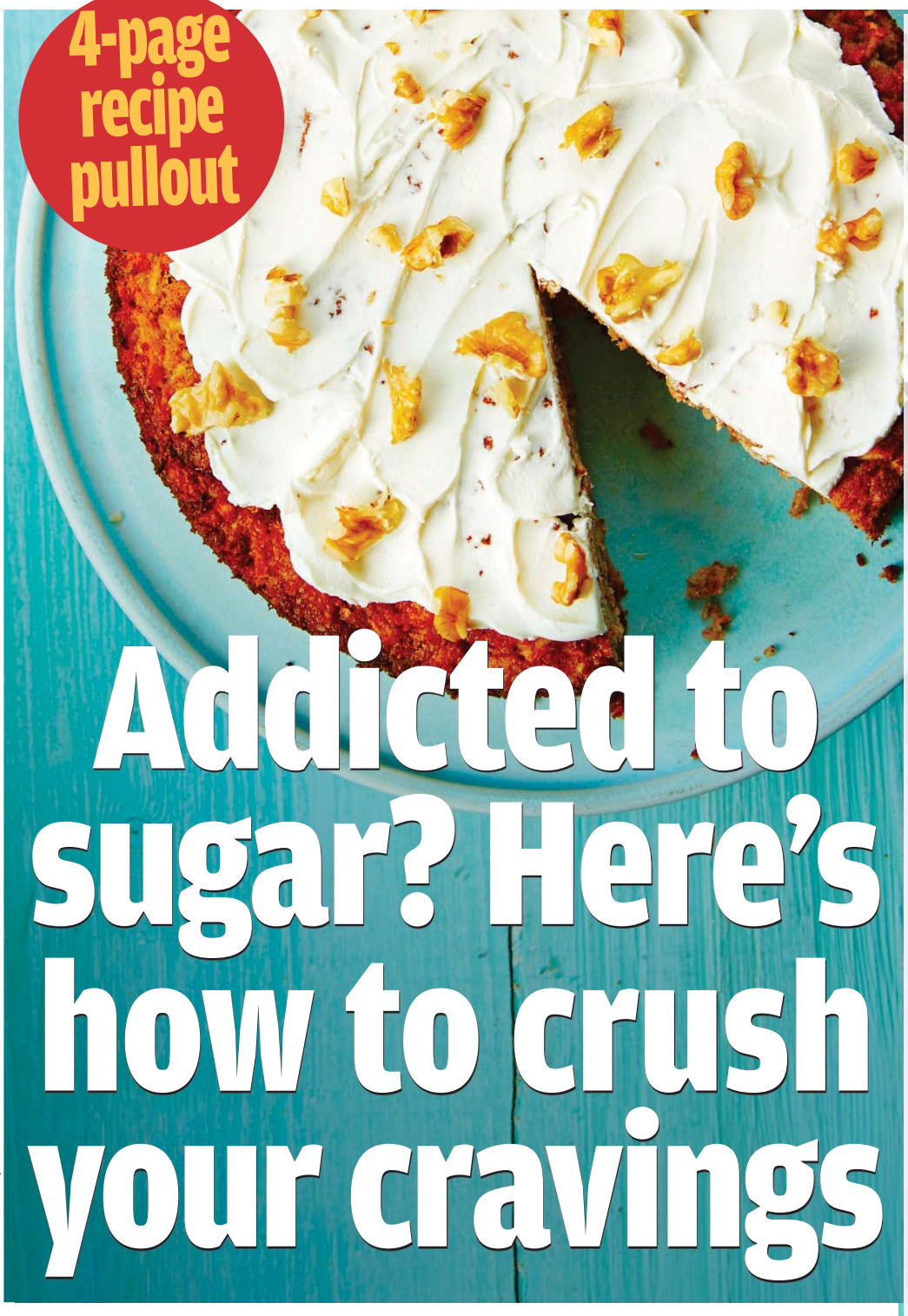
Mouth-watering series that could change your life

DELICIOUS WAY TO BEAT DIABETES

Exclusive videos: Watch Katie Caldesi cook new low-carb recipes — free for all Mail Plus members — at dailymailplus.co.uk/beatdiabetes

TODAY, in the fourth part of our groundbreaking series, NHS GP Dr David Unwin reveals what to do if you are addicted to sugar and carbs, while chef Giancarlo Caldesi and his food writer wife Katie offer more of their delicious low-carb recipes.

By DR DAVID UNWIN with GIANCARLO CALDESI



4-page recipe pullout

Addicted to sugar? Here's how to crush your cravings

Pictures: WILL HEAP / SUSAN BELL

ARE you finding it harder than you imagined to give up carbs and change your diet? Do you find you can't just eat one biscuit or square of chocolate, but instead you're reaching for the packet again and again?

If you really find yourself craving sweet or starchy things, and struggle to cut down, despite knowing how harmful it can be, you might be a sugar or carb addict.

This is not as fanciful as it may sound — in my opinion, sugar is a highly addictive substance, because when it is digested it produces 'feel good' chemicals in the brain.

As a doctor, I wondered for years why my advice around 'moderation' and 'cutting back' to help with weight loss seemed so ineffective, even after pointing out the serious risks to the patient's health that obesity and type 2 diabetes bring.

Then, one day, I realised some of my very obese patients were exhibiting similar behaviour to other people who struggle with moderation; such as those addicted to drugs or alcohol. What if they really could not easily just 'cut back' any more than a person with an alcohol problem can stop drinking? It would make far more sense if obesity was not just the result of a dietary choice or greed, but instead part of a psychological and physical compulsion to eat certain foods.

Around seven years ago, I was starting to notice a 'middle-aged spread' in myself and realised it was partly because of a nasty snacking habit I had developed. I kept biscuits in my desk, and I'd munch a few throughout the day, particularly in anticipation of a stressful patient.

When I could easily get through three, even though I wasn't hungry, I decided to stop.

I was astonished to find giving up biscuits completely took me a year. Asking around, I found patients were having similar problems, but not always with sweet foods. These days, I find a new 'bread addict' about every two weeks.

People for whom even the thought of giving it up causes distress. Of course, if you are a lucky person who is addiction-free, you may well struggle to understand this, but perhaps you can see it would help explain how for many people obesity is not simply a lifestyle choice but something more complex.

A number of reputable scientific studies have identified that for some people, eating high-GI

TURN TO NEXT PAGE

Spiced walnut cake

DEPENDING on the season, you can use the natural sweetness in a carrot or parsnip to make this flavour-packed cake. The mixture can also be cooked as 20 mini-muffins, which take around 12 minutes to cook.

SERVES 10
Per serving: Calories, 203; carbohydrates, 10g; protein, 5.8g; fat, 15g; fibre, 3.5g

- 100g butter or coconut oil, plus a little more for greasing
- 2 medjool dates, chopped
- 1 medium carrot or parsnip
- 2 apples
- 100g walnuts, chopped
- 4 medium eggs
- 100g ground almonds
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- 1 tbsp ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp ground nutmeg
- Pinch of ground cloves

HEAT the oven to 180c/gas mark 4. Generously butter a medium, loose-bottomed, shallow 24cm cake tin.
Using a fork, mash the dates in a bowl with two tablespoons of very hot water to form a paste.
Pour this into a sieve and force it through with the back of a spoon into a large mixing bowl. Discard any remaining skin from the dates.
Grate the carrot (or parsnip) and apples into the bowl.
Add the remaining ingredients and mix together thoroughly with a large spoon.
Spoon into the prepared tin and bake for 25 minutes.
Check that a toothpick or skewer comes out clean when inserted — if not, cook for a few more minutes.
Remove from the oven and allow the cake to cool for 20 minutes before removing it from the tin.
Serve on its own or with a light spreading of cream cheese.

THE DELICIOUS WAY TO BEAT DIABETES

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

foods (those with a high glycaemic index, a measurement of how rapidly they cause sugar to be released into the bloodstream) can trigger changes in the chemistry of the brain and behaviour similar to other addictions.

HOW CAN I TELL IF I AM ADDICTED?

THE following, adapted from the Yale Food Addiction Scale, is a tool developed by Yale University's Rudd Centre for Food Policy And Obesity in 2009 to identify those who exhibit addictive symptoms with the consumption of foods. Consider the following seven statements to see how many correctly describe your relationship with sugary or high-starch carbohydrate foods.

1. I HAVE cravings or a strong desire for the food.

2. I SUFFER more cravings and other physical symptoms of withdrawal if the food is not available. These symptoms are relieved by consuming that food.

3. I EAT the food in larger quantities, or for longer than I intended.

4. I WANT to cut down on my consumption or quit entirely but I find I am not able to.

5. I SPEND a lot of time obtaining or planning how to get the food.

6. I EAT the food consistently despite acknowledging that it brings me persistent physical or psychological problems or other harm arising from it.

7. I NEED to eat increased amounts of the food to get the same desired satisfaction from it.

If two or more of these statements apply to you, then you may have a food or carbohydrate addiction.

WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

IN MY own case, the 'biscuit problem' was solved by a two-pronged attack — progressive reduction of the snacking, along with transferring to less addictive foods; first, plain oat biscuits, then non-salted almonds or walnuts.

If you are struggling with a sugar or carbohydrate addiction, the chances are that gradually reducing your intake just won't work for you. If so, you may want to try a 'cold turkey' approach.

Plan in advance and pick a day to give up whatever is your problem food, and be prepared for a couple of difficult days where you may feel tired and have headaches. Be sure to drink plenty of water and have a little extra salt with your meals during these early days — you'll see the medical reasons why this tip is so helpful in the Q&A on the last page of this supplement.

HOW CAN I DEAL WITH CRAVINGS?

IF CRAVINGS strike, try snacking on full-fat yoghurt with some raspberries instead, or a handful of almonds or a few squares of 90 per cent dark chocolate, which contains very little sugar.

Food cravings are caused by the regions of the brain responsible for memory, pleasure and reward, and can be complex in origin, in the same way that other addictions are.

An imbalance of hormones such as leptin and serotonin can also cause food cravings. It is also possible that cravings could be triggered by the endorphins released after someone has eaten — leading them to want to repeat the pleasurable feeling.

However, cravings may also be triggered by emotional issues, particularly if the person eats for comfort or when distressed.

Physical cravings are often time-limited so if you can distract yourself for, say, 20 to 30 minutes, by going for a walk, then the urge to eat something will naturally ease after time. Be aware of this — and also that the craving will pass in time.

Find other rewards to focus on: a long, hot bath, your favourite TV series or a chat with a friend.

After a few weeks it will all be worth it and you will start to feel clear-headed and more energetic — and perhaps lighter on the scales, too!

Seed and nut loaf

THIS dense, nutty brown loaf is adapted from Sarah Britton's 'Life-Changing Loaf' recipe, which she developed while she was living in Denmark (see her version at *mynewroots.org*). It is gorgeous with butter, cheese or pate. As it is packed with nuts and seeds, it is high in fat — so don't scoff too much in one go.

MAKES 1 (16 slices)
Per slice: Calories, 162; carbohydrates, 5.1g; protein, 4.9g; fat, 12g; fibre, 6.2g

- 135g sunflower seeds, plus 1 tbsp to finish (optional)
- 90g ground flaxseeds
- 65g hazelnuts or almonds
- 75g quinoa flakes or oats
- 2 tbsp chia seeds
- 3 tbsp psyllium husk powder (from health food shops)
- 1 tsp fine salt
- 3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil, butter, ghee or coconut oil, plus extra to grease

PUT the dry ingredients into a mixing bowl and stir. Add 475ml of water and your choice of fat and stir through with a spoon to form a firm dough.
Preheat the oven to 200c/gas mark 6. Grease a loaf tin and line with baking parchment with flaps over the sides of the tin to help you lift the loaf out.
Spoon the dough into the tin and flatten down the top, scattering over the seed topping (if using).
Let the dough sit for 20 minutes, then bake for 45 minutes.
Slide a knife around the loaf, tip it out of the tin and place it upside down on a rack in the oven so that the heat can flow around it evenly.
Remove the paper. Let it cook for a further 30 minutes, until it sounds hollow when tapped and is firm to the touch.
Let the loaf cool to room temperature before slicing.
If not freezing, store in a bag or sealed container for up to five days in the fridge or a cool place.

Scones with strau

THESE delightful little scones are best cooked in mini muffin moulds and served with strawberry chia jam and clotted or whipped cream.

MAKES 8
Per scone: Calories, 126; carbohydrates, 1.7g; protein, 4.1g; 11g; fibre, 1.7g
Per serving of jam: Calories, 62; carbohydrates, 6.4g; prot 1.2g; fat, 1.5g; fibre, 5.1g

- 100g ground almonds
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 30g melted butter
- 2 tbsp natural yoghurt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 large egg

Lemon and blueber

BUTTERY almond cake meets sharp lemon curd and vanilla whipped cream in this impressive celebration cake. The clever part is that the egg whites lighten the cake while the leftover yolks make the velvety lemon curd.

SERVES 8
Per serving: Calories, 470; carbohydrates, 15g; protein, 8.3g; fat, 41g; fibre, 6.1g

FOR THE CAKE:

- 2 medjool dates, chopped
- Grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
- 200g ground almonds
- 35g coconut flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 75g melted butter
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 150ml whole milk
- 3 medium egg whites

FOR THE LEMO

- 2 medjool date
- 4 tbsp of wate
- 6 tbsp lemon j
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 70g butter
- 4 egg yolks, be

TO SERVE:

- 180ml whippe
- 150g blueberrie

HEAT the oven to
Grease a baking t
For the cake, mel juice in a microwa set aside. Mix tog coconut flour and bowl. Add the me extract and lemo
Sieve the date pu add the milk and

Magic muffins

THIS recipe comes from Katy Threlfall from Dr Unwin's low-carb patient group. As a busy mum, she makes one each day for a late breakfast or to carry on the go. The muffins can be eaten just as they are or topped with crème fraîche and strawberries.

SERVES 1
Per serving: Calories, 536; carbohydrates, 15g; protein, 21g; fat, 42g; fibre, 7.5g

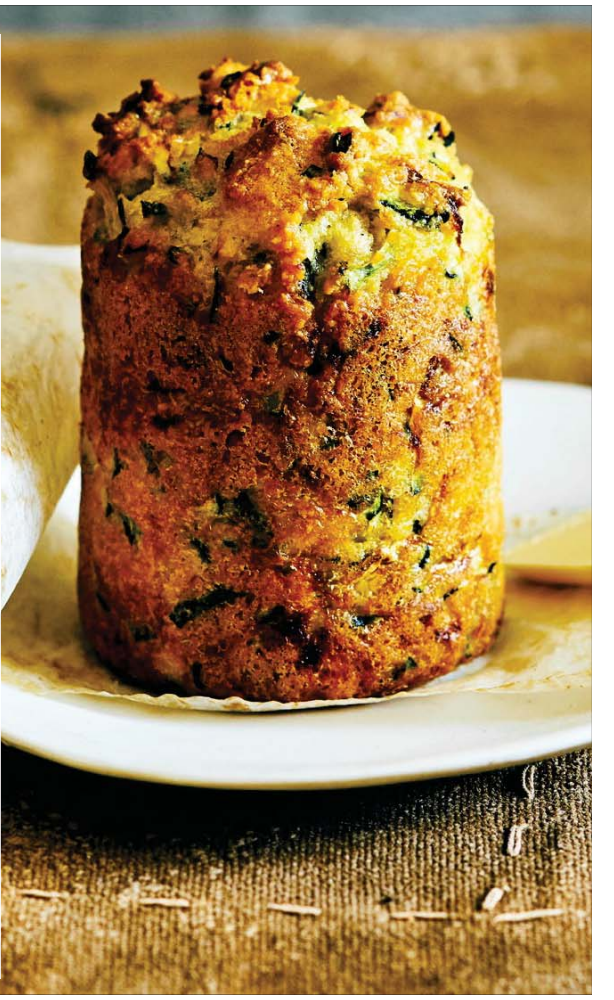
- 1 egg
- 1 knob of butter or 2 tsp extra virgin olive oil
- 50g ground almonds
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- ½ apple or pear, grated

MIX the egg and fat together in a bowl, then add other ingredients and stir well. Spoon into a mug and microwave on full power for three minutes.

VARIATIONS

SAVOURY: Use the standard recipe but instead of the apple add half a grated courgette, pinch of dried oregano, 15g grated Parmesan and a tablespoon chopped coriander. After cooking the muffin, cut it into slices and top with cream cheese, cherry tomatoes and torn basil leaves.

CHOCOLATE: Use the standard recipe and add a teaspoon cocoa powder, half a teaspoon vanilla extract and pieces of 90 per cent dark chocolate.



wberry chia jam

i

fat,

tein,

FOR THE JAM:

- 300g strawberries, hulled and roughly cut
- 1 tbsp chia seeds
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

HEAT the oven to 180c/gas mark 4. Mix the dry ingredients in a bowl. Add the butter, yoghurt and vanilla extract and stir, making sure they are well blended.
Separate the egg and put the white into a large bowl. Keep the yolk for the glaze. Whisk the egg white to form stiff peaks. Use a spoon to fold it gently into the almond mixture, keeping as much air in as possible.
Divide the mixture between eight mini muffin moulds and bake for 15 minutes, or until golden and firm to the touch.
To make the jam, whizz the fruit, seeds and vanilla briefly in a small food processor until smooth.
Tip into a bowl and chill until ready to serve.

rry cake

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d cream
es

170c/gas mark 3.
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ave for 30 seconds and
gether the almonds,
d baking powder in a
elted butter, vanilla
on zest and stir through.
uree into the bowl, then
l stir. Whisk the egg whites until they form stiff peaks. Mix some of the egg whites into the batter to loosen it, then fold the remaining whites in with a spoon. Spoon the batter into the tin and bake for 25-30 minutes, or until golden brown. Leave to cool.
For the lemon curd, put the dates, water and lemon juice into a saucepan and bring to a gentle boil, mashing the dates with a fork until they dissolve. Remove from the heat and sieve into a bowl.
Put the date puree back into the saucepan and stir in the zest and butter.
Tip in the beaten egg yolks while stirring vigorously with a wooden spoon. When they are well combined, put the pan over a gentle heat once more and stir constantly until the curd thickens.
Remove from the heat straight away and allow to cool before using.
Use a spatula to spread the cake with a generous layer of lemon curd, plus the whipped cream and blueberries.

Flax seed and Parmesan crackers

THESE bite-size crackers are versatile. They are ideal for packed lunches (we suggest a serving is three crackers), to serve with cheese or paté, or to use as a low-carb, gluten-free base for canapes. Made from seeds and nuts, they are filling and packed with nutrients. Add dried herbs, spices or seeds for extra flavour.

SERVES 16
Per serving: Calories, 92; carbohydrates, 0.7g; protein, 2.1g; fat, 8.7g; fibre, 1.3g

- 50g sunflower seeds
- 50g flax seeds
- 2 tsp chia seeds
- 100g ground almonds
- 25g Parmesan
- 100g butter
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp water
- 1 tbsp rosemary, chopped
- 1 tbsp black onion seeds

HEAT the oven to 170c/gas mark 3. Cut three pieces of baking parchment the size of a large baking tray. Put the three types of seeds into a food processor and grind to obtain a flour. Tip into a bowl and add the remaining ingredients. Stir to form a well-blended dough and divide into two balls. Transfer one ball of dough to one of the pieces of baking parchment on a work surface. Put another piece of paper over the top and use a rolling pin to flatten to around ½ cm. Use a palette knife to neaten the edges to make a rectangle. Roll again with the top paper in place. Transfer the base paper with the crackers to a baking tray. Cut the dough into approx 24 squares. You don't need to separate them before cooking as they will pull apart after they are cooked. Do the same with the other ball of dough. Bake the crackers for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown and firm to the touch. Leave to cool. Break the crackers apart (there should be 48 in total, 16 servings) and store in an airtight container for up to three days. If they become soft, they can be firmed up in a hot oven for a few minutes.

Coconut and raspberry squares

COCONUT gives a natural sweetness to a dish, which means you can limit any added sugar.

SERVES 12

Per serving: Calories, 202; carbohydrates, 4.7g; protein, 5.4g; fat, 17g; fibre, 3.6g

- 2 medjool dates, chopped
- 100ml milk, either cow's or nut
- 100g butter
- 2 tsp vanilla extract or 1 tsp vanilla powder
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 100g desiccated coconut
- 50g coconut flour
- 6 medium eggs
- 125g raspberries

PUT the dates and milk into a bowl and microwave for 1 minute to soften them. Mix, then sieve, the mixture over a bowl; it should form a thick paste. Add the other ingredients to the bowl and mix. Pour into a baking tin. Bake at 170c / gas mark 3 for 25 minutes or until golden brown. Allow to cool before cutting into 12 squares.

Brown 'bread' baps

USE these low-carb rolls to make a bacon butty for breakfast. We like them with garlic butter.

MAKES 4

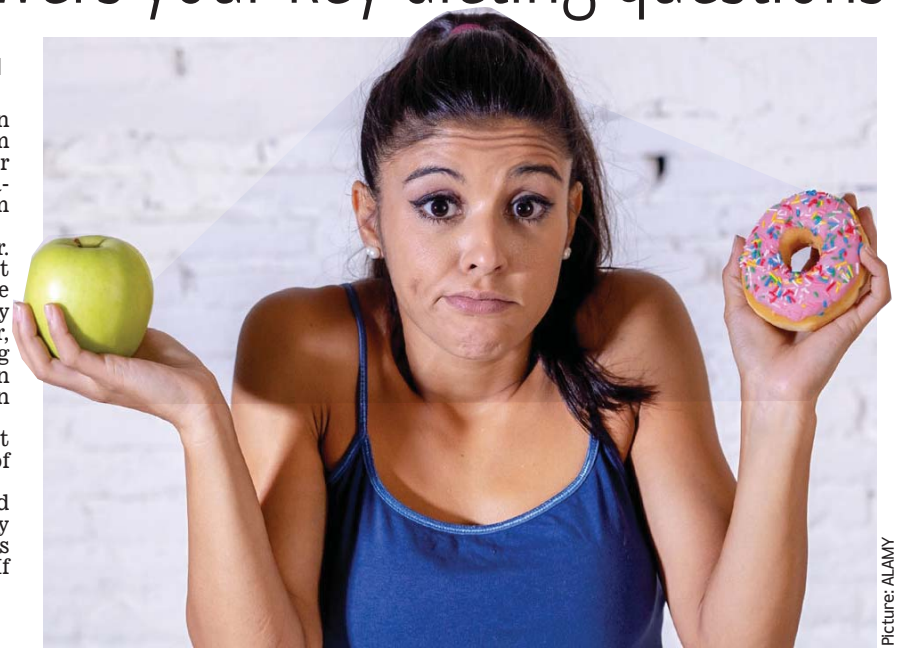
Per serving: Calories, 314; carbohydrates, 1.8g; protein, 26g; fat, 26g; fibre, 6.8g

- ½ tsp baking powder
- 50g ground flax seed
- 125g ground almonds
- 125g mozzarella, coarsely grated
- 3 large eggs, beaten
- 1 tsp salt

MIX the ingredients into a dough, divide it into four balls and put them onto a baking tray. Pat them down a little to form a bap shape around 1.5 cm deep. Bake at 180c/gas mark 4 for 20 minutes, or until browned and firm to the touch. Allow to cool before slicing and filling.

Will going low-carb make me feel dizzy?

Dr Unwin answers your key dieting questions



Picture: ALAMY

Q: I'VE just started my low-carb plan and I have dizziness/cramps and feel lousy — what do you advise?

A: THE first few days of cutting down on carbs can be difficult. Your system may have been running on sugar for years, so this may be a form of metabolic shock; it takes time for the system to swap to burning fat as fuel instead.

Make sure you drink enough water. Many people find they need extra salt on a lower-carb diet. This is because insulin, the hormone your body produces to regulate blood sugar, causes you to retain salt — so cutting sugar may result in excreting salt in your urine. In turn, this loss of salt can lower your blood pressure.

When I started a low-carb diet, I felt dizzy if I stood up suddenly, because of changes in my blood pressure.

Some people get muscle cramps and weakness. Again, a bit more salt may be the remedy, and sometimes magnesium supplements also help. If problems persist, see your GP.

Q: I'VE done your quiz on how carbs affect our bodies and I'm worried that I might have type 2 diabetes. What should I do now?

A: PLEASE contact your GP. They may want to do a few simple blood tests.

Q: WHAT can I eat for breakfast if cereals and toast are off-limits?

A: TRY full-fat yoghurt with nuts and berries; an omelette with cheese; or a English breakfast with eggs, bacon, mushroom and tomato.

Q: WHAT about when I'm travelling or at work?

A: BUY slices of meat, cheese or crudities. Low-carb bread sandwiches are also good, as is a salad box with meat, eggs or cheese. I always travel with some almonds and a bar of dark chocolate for emergencies — the higher the percentage of cocoa, the less sugar.

Q: HOW do I deal with cravings for carbohydrates or sugar?

A: THIS can be so hard! I substituted sugary snacks with almonds, raspberries or very dark chocolate. Over time, my snacking habit died away.

Q: WHAT can I have to drink?

A: WATER (still or sparkling); tea or coffee, but avoid lattes as each 100ml of milk is equivalent to about a teaspoon of sugar.

You can have alcohol in moderation — but stick to spirits such as gin, whisky and vodka, which are lower in sugar, or red wine. Beer is full of sugar, so much so that my son Rob calls it 'liquid toast'.

The UK guidelines advise limiting alcohol to 14 units a week, but I would drink less than this if you want to lose weight. I stick to less than four units a week, as alcohol makes me hungry.

Q: Could I reverse type 2 diabetes and other health problems by losing weight on another diet plan?

A: YES. Weight loss, however you achieve it, can help type 2 diabetes. Studies have shown that, as well as low-carb diets, low-calorie diets or even bariatric surgery can be effective. Exercise is another key way to improve your health. Examine the pros and cons of each approach with your doctor, then decide what suits you best.

Q: YOU say to be careful about eating fruit, but surely this is good for you?

A: IT DEPENDS how much fruit and which type. Choose less sugary fruits such as berries over more sugary tropical fruits, such as a bananas or pineapple. Consume whole fruit rather than juicing it, which speeds up the release of sugar from the fruit. Watch out for dried fruit — 100g of raisins could be worse in terms of sugar than a couple of digestive biscuits.

Q: HOW long will it take before I see a noticeable change in my health?

A: ON AVERAGE, my type 2 diabetes patients lose weight after three weeks and are surprised to not feel hungry.

Q: I AM slim but I eat lots of carbs and sugar. Do I also need to follow a low-carb diet?

A: YOU may tolerate a high carb and sugar diet — but it's difficult to be certain you are not storing up trouble for the future. Twenty per cent of UK adults now has a fatty liver, which can lead to type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and kidney disease. Most have no idea that they have it or that it can affect their health.

Q: WON'T eating saturated fat be bad for my cholesterol?

A: GOING low-carb can mean eating a diet higher in full-fat dairy, eggs and good fats such as olive oil.

In the early days, I did worry about the effects on cholesterol and the risk of cardiovascular disease in my patients.

However, I was surprised to find their average cholesterol came down.

This, together with the improved blood pressure and weight loss they experienced, could suggest improved heart health.

The saturated fat debate remains contentious. But a recent review (involving eight studies and 1,600 participants) concluded: 'Large randomised controlled trials of at least six months duration with carbohydrate restriction appear superior in improving lipid markers [cholesterol and other blood fats] when compared with low-fat diets.'

For anyone with familial hypercholesterolemia, a genetic form of high cholesterol, or readers who worry about cholesterol, speak to your GP before embarking on this new plan.

NOTE: Always consult your GP before starting a new diet, particularly if you take prescribed medication.

■*RECIPES by Katie Caldesi. The Diabetes Weight-Loss Cookbook by Katie and Giancarlo Caldesi is published by Kyle Books at £20. To order a copy for £16 (offer valid until April 27, 2019; P&P free), visit mail shop.co.uk/books or call 0844 571 0640.*

TOMORROW: YES, YOU CAN STILL HAVE A TAKEAWAY!